

حزب من الاحل

Political row over expected bid for GEC

Lord Prior set to resign from Barclays board

- Opposition mounted to the £7 billion bid for GEC as the stage was set for Britain's biggest takeover battle.
- The Government was under pressure to thwart any potential foreign-backed takeover. Conservatives faced a split.
- The spectre of the Westland affair was raised, but Whitehall insisted it was a matter for the GEC for now.
- The involvement of Barclays is expected to lead to the first casualty, with Lord Prior quitting its board.

By David Brewerton and Richard Ford

A political storm was brewing last night over the promised £7 billion bid for GEC from a consortium financed by Barclays Bank.

GEC, Britain's biggest manufacturing employer, faces dismemberment if the bid is successful.

The bid, already condemned by Opposition MPs and trade union leaders, also faces a critical examination by both the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Government came under strong pressure to block any potential foreign-backed takeover as the issue threatened to cause deep divisions

within the Conservative Party.

But ministers were standing firm against calls for immediate action on the proposal as Whitehall insisted it was a matter for the management of the company if and when a firm bid materialized.

The prospect of foreign control of such an important company with so many crucial

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British defence contracts raised the spectre of the Westland affair.

However several backbench Conservative MPs suspect that the idea is a defensive move aimed at forcing an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the £1.7 billion bid by GEC and Siemens of West Germany for Plessey.

It is Plessey's merchant bank which has come up with the so-called Pac-Man defence by turning the tables on GEC itself.

The first casualty of the battle, which brings together several of the protagonists from the Westland affair, is likely this morning when the involvement of Barclays is expected to bring the resignation of Lord Prior, the GEC chairman, from the Barclays board.

A company owned by Sir John Cuckney, who retires as chairman of the Westland helicopter group next month, announced at the weekend it was talking to other international companies about joining in a bid for GEC.

The consortium members have not been named by the merchant bank behind the plan, Lazard Brothers, which is headed by Sir John Nott, the former Secretary of State for Defence, but they include companies from France and the United States which would acquire parts of the GEC empire.

The key member is Plessey, which would take over GEC's half share in its joint telecommunications company, GEC Plessey Telecommunications (GPT), if the bid from Sir John Cuckney's company, Metson Limited, goes through.

Other members of the consortium said to be backing the move on Britain's largest engineering company are the government-owned French group Thomson-CSF, the British group STC, which owns International Computers, AT&T of the US and possibly General Electric, the unconnected US giant.

Each would be looking for "pickings" from the dismembered corpse of GEC, which was built up to Britain's largest manufacturing business in the 1960s and 70s through audacious takeovers.

Sir John Cuckney is also banking on help from within GEC itself, where there are said to be discontented managers who would like the opportunity to own direct stakes in parts of the business.

Sir John Cuckney, a veteran of the Westland affair which claimed the jobs of two Cabinet ministers, is hoping that the Prime Minister will back the bid.

GEC said last night the move was "a self-interested attempt by the board of Plessey and its advisers to form a consortium to break up the GEC and thereby save Plessey, in the short term, regardless of the cost to British industry in terms of lost opportunities and lost jobs."

Lord Weinstock, GEC managing director, vowed to press on with the joint bid for Plessey.

GEC shares have been poor performers on the London stock market for years, and a number of powerful institutional shareholders are unhappy with the present situation.

It is relevant that Sir John Cuckney is also chairman of Royal Insurance, which is a shareholder in GEC although the largest shareholder is the Prudential. Sir John also heads the venture capital company 3i.

Shareholders in GEC are likely to be offered a substantial stake in the new company. Continued on page 18, col 2

Japanese defy rain to mourn a



Thousands of mourners braving persistent drizzle in Tokyo yesterday to offer prayers outside the Imperial Palace for the late Emperor and to sign condolence registers there.

Fear of friction over Hirohito funeral plans

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The funeral of Emperor Hirohito, which has been set for February 24 in Tokyo, will pragmatically combine a traditional Shinto ritual with a non-religious state ceremony.

The mix could cause friction if some Japanese — who want to protect the constitutional divide between state and religion — object to paying for a Shinto ritual, and if some foreign dignitaries prefer not to watch one.

The Japanese Government is still reading the condolence telegrams. Although it says that it has no interest in what it dismisses as funeral diplomacy — "it is entirely up to foreign governments to decide whom to send to the funeral", a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday — ministers are itching to know who will come from where.

The Government thinks that the Prince of Wales will probably attend and President-elect George Bush is to represent the United States. A visit by President Gorbachov would make the Japanese swoon and might even help to defrost relations with Moscow. But diplomats think that a trip by the Soviet leader would be politically difficult and, therefore, unlikely.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment yesterday on speculation that Prince Charles was likely to represent the Queen, who does not attend funerals of foreign heads of state. British war veterans and

MPs criticized plans for royal representation and drew a parallel with the memorial service for the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster, which no member of the Royal Family attended.

Countries are being given until January 24 to name a representative for the funeral. Some, such as Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, have already declined.

There was an angry outcry from former Australian prisoners-of-war, who suffered

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badly at the hands of the Japanese forces.

Mr Bruce Ruxton, the president of the Returned Servicemen's League in Victoria, welcomed Hirohito's death, saying: "The RSL won't be sending a wreath. If we did it would be poison ivy."

The Japanese Foreign Ministry was yesterday pencilling in about 40 leaders among the 100 foreign envoys it expects to attend. It wants to use the occasion for Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, to meet heads of state.

In all, the Government expects about 10,000 official mourners. Police estimate that one million people will line the 32-mile route of the procession through Tokyo in an event lasting nine hours.

In line with custom, Hirohito will assume the name of Continued on page 18, col 6

Gorbachov gloom on economy

Moscow will begin to scrap chemical weapons

From Philip Jacobson in Paris and Our Correspondent in Moscow

The Soviet Union will unilaterally start to destroy its chemical weapons stock this year, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

He made the announcement in Paris at the 140-nation conference on chemical weapons, and said the Soviet Union would not wait for a global ban.

Meanwhile in Moscow, President Gorbachov said that the Kremlin needed more military budget cuts to boost the country's economy.

In his bleakest assessment so far of the Soviet economic situation after almost four years in power, he said: "Decisive and harsh measures" were needed to cut spending in a number of areas.

Mr Gorbachov told a meeting of Soviet intellectuals in a speech published at the weekend: "We must also examine our defence spending. A preliminary study shows that we can cut it (the spending) without diminish-

ing the security and defence capabilities" of the Soviet Union. Mr Gorbachov had pledged in a speech to the United Nations on December 7 that, together with troop cuts of 500,000, his country's defence industry was being restructured and channelled towards production of consumer goods in short supply.

Mr Shevardnadze told the Paris meeting that the elimination of its chemical weapons stockpile would start this year "at a facility built for that purpose".

But a senior official with the US delegation said that the USSR was only "playing catch-up" in response to two years of initiatives previously undertaken by Washington.

"What the Soviets have suggested today is a response to what the US has done, is doing and will continue to do," he said, pointing out that the US had abandoned all

production in 1969 — almost two decades before Moscow had followed suit.

In a comment on Mr Gorbachov's Moscow speech, the head of the influential USA and Canada Institute, Mr Georgy Arbatov, said that the measures were only a first step, but did not say that further spending cuts were envisaged.

Moscow only admits to spending 4 per cent of its budget, or 20.2 billion rubles (£20.2 billion), annually on defence, while Western estimates put the real figure at 18 per cent of the budget.

Soviet officials have promised to publish details of the military budget only after a planned price reform is complete, around 1990.

Detailing the country's economic woes in his first big speech since cutting short his visit to the United States in December because of the Armenian earthquake, Mr Gorbachov blamed the "ex-

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Consultants to lose life-long contracts

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Newly appointed consultants will no longer be automatically entitled to a job for life, under government proposals for the reform of the National Health Service.

The White Paper on the NHS reform is expected to include measures to impose tougher controls on hospital consultants in an attempt to ensure that they fulfil their NHS contracts.

Health service managers will be given greater powers to be involved in the appointment of consultants and in their "merit" payments.

The crackdown has been prompted by concern that a minority of doctors are abusing their NHS contracts

through taking on too much private practice or spending too long "on the golf course", and consequently failing to carry out all their NHS sessions.

Plans to introduce fixed five-year contracts for all consultants are understood to have been dropped, but sources indicated yesterday that newly appointed consultants would no longer be given contracts for life.

The contracts, which are now issued by regional health authorities, would specify that consultants be subject to "periodic review". This would give managers far more flexibility to alter contracts

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WIN £92,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Saturday's £8,000 Portfolio weekly prize was shared by three winners (see page 3). The Accumulator fund stands at £92,000, and there is also the daily prize of £4,000 to be won. Prices: page 22

IN PART ②

Coe back in favour

Sebastian Coe, who was rejected by the British Athletics Board for the Seoul Olympics, is to make his return in a British vest at the European indoor championships in The Hague next month.

He has been chosen for the 800 metres, an event he has not run indoors since setting the world best time of 1min 44.91sec six years ago. The Board's haste in selecting him is seen as an apology for their refusal to send him to Seoul despite their own selectors' desire to do so. Page 32

Firms 'asleep'

Nearly 10,000 British companies are sleep-walking to 1992, and many will go out of business, according to Mr John Owens, deputy director general of the Confederation of British Industry. Page 19

London debut

Dealings begin today in shares of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank of Japan, claimed to be the world's largest, which has gained a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Page 19

Arsenal draw

Arsenal came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with West Ham United in the third round of the FA Cup. Norwich City beat Port Vale 3-1. Page 32

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Union leaders call for government inquiry

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Union leaders last night demanded a government inquiry into the threatened takeover of GEC and promised to mount a campaign to fight any threat to jobs and future employment.

Virtually every union has members in the company, which is one of Britain's largest employers.

Mr John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB general union said: "Lord Young should intervene immediately

to stop these Dallas-style antics from damaging Britain's defence and engineering industries."

Mr Gavin Laird, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "I fear the prospect of a French or American led 'rationalization' programme with a cut-back in jobs and the cash mountain GEC has built up ending abroad rather than being invested in this country."

The inquiry at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, is into a scheme by Pioneer, the aggregate company, to extract more than two million tonnes of sand and gravel from a site at Wasperton Farm, next to the village of Barford, near Warwick.

The land was bequeathed in 1755 to St John's College, Oxford, by Richard Rawlinson, a landowner whose apparent wishes were that it was preserved.

One of his descendants is Lord Rawlinson, the former Conservative MP for Epsom and Attorney-General,

who is non-executive chairman of Pioneer Concrete Services, the company that has bought the rights to extract sand and gravel from the land from St John's College for an undisclosed sum.

Another of Richard Rawlinson's descendants, Mrs Georgian Tashjian of Los Angeles, is sending a representative to tell the public inquiry that the extraction plans are contrary to the stated wishes of her ancestor.

Hostages hamper Iran talks

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The rapprochement between Britain and Iran has slowed because of the continued imprisonment in Tehran of Mr Roger Cooper, accused in the Iranian press of spying, and the lack of progress on the fate of British hostages held in Beirut by pro-Iranian groups.

Although the countries are due to exchange ambassadors soon, Whitehall sources said yesterday that the Government would "think very hard" before doing so unless there was progress.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to emphasize this concern to Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, in Paris today. Both are attending the international chemical weapons conference.

In a BBC radio interview yesterday, Mr Waldegrave said: "We are not seeing... much improvement on the hostages, where we still do believe that the Iranians have some influence."

"We think there are serious and important people in Iran who would like to see the hostage situation settled... and we will be emphasizing (to

Dr Velayati) that until that happens there can really be no hope of warm relations between our two countries."

Iran said last year that it would use its influence with Shia groups in Beirut thought to be holding Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr John McCarthy, a journalist, and Mr Brian Keenan, a teacher with dual Anglo-Irish nationality. But Whitehall sources doubt that Tehran has carried out this promise.

The sources confirmed that the same remarks applied to Mr Cooper's detention.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

MPs call for a 'saver's Budget'

Mr Nigel Lawson and senior Treasury officials ended a weekend briefing on the outline for the Chancellor's sixth Budget amid growing dissent among Conservative MPs about his strategy. As MPs return to Westminster tomorrow, Mr Lawson is preparing for a debate on the economy with his management of the nation's finances under question from both the Opposition and some of his own backbenchers.

With high interest rates and increases in mortgage rates affecting industry and homebuyers, Mr Lawson will defend his strategy of dampening the consumer boom.

He is expected to have a between £13 billion and £15 billion budget surplus at his disposal and, as he and his Treasury colleagues met at his country residence at Dorseywood, Buckinghamshire, backbench MPs were advising him to make it a Budget for savers.

Docks strike threat

The leader of Britain's dockers said yesterday he expected a national strike if the Government moved to abolish the National Dock Labour Scheme, which guarantees employment for life. Mr John Connolly, national docks secretary for the Transport and General Workers' union said: "We believe we would win a strike." But Mr Nicholas Finney, director of the National Association of Port Employers, speaking also on BBC television's *The Money Programme*, said the industry did not fear a strike and freedom from the scheme would be a prize worth having.

Prince angers farmers

Farmers yesterday reacted angrily after the Prince of Wales condemned the "excessive and unacceptable" use of chemicals in a message to an organic farming conference in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, at the weekend. Tenant farmers on his Duchy of Cornwall land say they could convert to organic methods only if the Prince reduced their rent. If he pushed them into chemical-free farming without cutting their overheads, many would go out of business, they said.

Hume's 1989 hopes

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, yesterday said he hoped to see progress towards a nuclear-free world and a "global village" in 1989. "What I am really hoping is that with the wonderful events that have been going on in Russia, and the visit of Mr Gorbachev to the US, we can look forward to making our world a nuclear-free world," he said on BBC Radio 2's *Good Morning Sunday* programme. On church unity he said: "We have to face up much more to those things that divide us."

Suspect home today

David Evans, the man wanted for questioning about the murder of the schoolgirl Anna Humphries, will be brought back to Britain from France today. Mr Evans, aged 31, a farm worker from Bettisfield on the Shropshire-North Wales border, is expected to be charged with the murder of Anna, aged 15, within 24 hours of his return. He will be interviewed at Wrexham police station and taken before magistrates there. Last night Det Supt Gareth Jones, the deputy head of North Wales CID who led the hunt for Mr Evans, flew to Paris to complete his extradition.

£10,000 Tube reward

London Underground yesterday offered a £10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of two men who stabbed to death a tourist at Holborn station. Hakan Koseoglu, aged 17, a Turkish-born student, was knifed repeatedly on December 9 while out shopping. Det Supt John Lewis, leading the investigation, said that less than two hours before the killing the men had twice robbed other people on the Underground.

Firms 'putting stability above cost of big rises'

By Roland Rudd and Tim Jones

Government fears of inflationary wage rises have been fuelled by independent research which suggests that employers are putting the chance of achieving industrial stability above the cost of above-average pay settlements.

According to Industrial Relations Services, the wage trend at a time when management and unions embark on a key negotiating period will make grim reading for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor.

The survey shows that in spite of uncertainty over the future inflation rate, employers continue to offer long-term deals guaranteeing pay increases directly linked to cost-of-living factors. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, is

urging employers to turn their backs on the "outmoded concept" of awarding annual pay rises in line with the cost of living. Few are expected to heed his call, as union leaders press for substantial increases above the inflation rate.

Talks resume today at Peugeot-Talbot after the union rejected an increase of 4.5 per cent in 1987-88 followed by 5 per cent this November. Nine thousand manual workers at Jaguar will this week vote on whether to accept their shop stewards' advice to reject a two-year pay deal worth 8 per cent.

Union leaders at Rolls-Royce in Derby will press their claim for an 8.2 per cent increase after the 5,000-strong workforce rejected an offer between 5.65 per cent and 6.2 per cent and began an indefinite over-

The TUC is urging more workers to take up their right to attend union-organized training courses as part of a campaign, launched today, to reverse what it sees as a mounting death toll from employment-related accidents and illness. It believes not enough is done to make employers aware of their responsibilities. The TUC says emphasis on health and safety at work has been reduced through privatisation and rivalry.

time ban. Car industry talks will be influenced by the Nissan two-year agreement, offering the 2,000 workers a 15 per cent increase this year followed by an increase in line with inflation plus 2.5 per cent, or 7.5 per cent, whichever is the greater.

Mr Alistair Hatchett, editor of the

Incomes Data Services, the pay specialists, yesterday predicted a worrying time for the Government.

He said: "Since November when people have been aware of higher inflation, wage rises have tended to be in the 7-8 per cent margins instead of the 5-6 per cent earlier on in 1988. The Nissan deal is going to add to the inflationary climate."

Union leaders representing more than 100,000 manual workers in the electricity and gas industries press this week for substantial pay increases above the inflation rate. They say they have a strong case because of productivity increases.

Elsewhere, the rise in inflation has increased tension in pay negotiations covering two-year deals. British Coal rejected the Union of Democratic Mineworkers' claim for a

"substantial improvement" in its offer of a rise worth about 7 per cent for 1988-89, followed by an inflation-linked increase from November this year.

Both sides have agreed to refer the dispute to an independent arbitrator, whose decision will be final and binding on both sides.

The National Union of Seamen (NUS) and the British Shipping Federation will meet tomorrow to discuss the National Maritime Board pay rates after seamen voted to reject a 6 per cent increase.

Mr Sam McCluskey, the NUS general secretary, said that although he did not want a "confrontation", he would have no alternative but to begin a ballot on industrial action if the owners fail to increase their offer.

Fowler set to step up war against benefit fraud

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The Government last night promised to intensify its war against the black economy as Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, disclosed that investigators last year prevented a record £65 million in benefit fraud.

In a move to spread the net wider, the Government is to prosecute employers who knowingly hire people who draw unemployment benefit.

The practice has become so widespread in London and the South-east that a special squad is being established to carry out investigations in problem areas. Construction sites, taxi firms and the catering industry will receive special attention.

Last year 450,000 investigations of benefit fraud led to more than 90,000 people withdrawing their claims. More than 4,000 people were prosecuted. Mr Fowler said: "These figures show that a significant number of people are drawing unemployment benefit when they are in fact working."

"The vast majority of benefit claimants are genuinely unemployed but these investi-

gations show there is a serious problem."

"I am determined to intensify the drive against this fraud and the black economy in 1989."

He said that with 700,000 job vacancies, 140,000 of them in London, there was no excuse for people to work in the black economy and claim unemployment benefit.

The latest investigation was conducted around Manchester airport and abuse was revealed mainly among private hire and mini-car drivers, hotels, catering and cleaning.

Of 613 people investigated, 292 stopped claiming benefit and 58 cases are being considered for prosecution. The exercise, which cost £20,000, is estimated to have achieved savings of £250,000.

In Nottingham last year 444 door-to-door sales people were investigated and 213 withdrew their claim to benefit, resulting in savings of £128,000. In the West Midlands 5,000 private hire and mini-car drivers were investigated and 500 withdrew their claims, resulting in savings of £500,000.

Prayers for Lockerbie victims



Children from Dryfedale Sunday School at Lockerbie, which reopened yesterday after the Pan Am jumbo jet disaster which wrecked part of their town, joining in prayers for the 270 crash victims.

Grieving American family 'given wrong body'

Officials in Lockerbie were yesterday investigating a claim that the family of a young American student killed in the Pan Am disaster was given the wrong body.

Only hours before the funeral of Karen Hunt, aged 20, in her home town of Rochester, New York, medical examiners told the family the body was not that of their daughter. The mix-up was discovered when dental records and X-rays did not tally.

Mr Robert Hunt said: "I know my daughter is still out there somewhere, either in Scotland, unidentified, or shipped somewhere else."

The Hunts were told on Tuesday that Karen's body had been identified and they planned the funeral for last Friday. It has been postponed indefinitely. Dundries and Galloway police confirmed other medical examinations were being carried out by pathologists as investi-

gations into the apparent mix-up continued. Meanwhile, search teams were combing a huge area of the Border country.

The search has centered on a 22 square mile area around the Harwood Forest in Northumberland.

Prayers were said for the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster by members of the Royal Family during morning service at Sandringham yesterday.

Privatization plans

Heseltine joins water debate

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine will underline his ambition to lead the Conservative Party by publishing a pamphlet this week strongly supporting the privatization of water.

He is eager to show that the alternative Tory prospectus he has been propounding since leaving the Cabinet during the Westland affair does not involve rejection of successful policies such as privatization.

By leaving criticism of the Government with praise he has managed to retain or attract the support of large numbers of Tory MPs in the mainstream of the party.

In his pamphlet, *Investing in Water*, he will claim to be one of the pioneers of privatization, having played a big role in the sale of council houses

when he was Secretary of State for the Environment. His positive intervention in the water debate will be privately welcomed by ministers because it is an issue on which many Conservative backbenchers are jittery.

The pamphlet, published by the Conservative Political Centre, is co-authored by Sir Anthony Grant, Conservative MP for South West Cambridgeshire, and will emphasize the need to protect the environment and to ensure that the benefits of Britain's economic success are not felt just in the South.

They will argue that privatization will lead to cleaner water because the industry will be freed of the Treasury-imposed capital restraints that

have prevented essential investment. They add that another improvement will be the establishment of an independent body to ensure that water authorities do not breach environmental guidelines.

However, Mr Heseltine will qualify his support by calling for strict conditions to ensure that the finer countryside owned by the industry is protected.

He will also argue that the 10 water authorities are bulwarks against the concentration of wealth in the South-east and should be protected from hostile takeover for three years to allow them to adjust to the free market.

The Water Bill begins its committee stage tomorrow.

18-month undercover mission

Bomb factory man 'was in King plot'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

One of two men wanted by Scotland Yard after the discovery of an IRA bomb factory in south London is now thought to have been operating undercover in Britain for up to 18 months and taking part in an IRA assassination plot.

He has been identified as the missing fourth man in an IRA team reconnoitering targets in Britain in 1987 and caught plotting an attack on Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

According to Whitehall sources yesterday, Patrick Sheehy, who fled with another man after shooting a man in Clapham, south-west London, before Christmas, is thought to be the man whose photo-

graph appears in false documents found in September 1987 by Wiltshire police. The papers were found when police arrested two men and a woman after a couple were seen spying on Mr King's country home.

Police found no sign of arms or explosives but they did discover a copy of a combat survival magazine open at an article on sniping. Finbar

Cullen, John McCann and Martina Shanahan, all from the Irish Republic, were convicted at Winchester Crown Court last autumn and jailed for two offences of conspiracy to murder.

The trial disclosed a target list of 19 political and military figures and evidence that a bombing had been made for a hotel in Blackpool weeks before the Conservative Party

conference. There was evidence the unit had also operated in London.

When the trio was found they were known to be looking for up to three other members of the unit. Police believe Sheehy has changed his appearance since the photograph was taken, removing a moustache.

Sheehy and the missing second man have also been linked by police with the bombing of Inglis barracks in north London last summer in which a soldier was killed.

Scotland Yard, who are now co-operating with Wiltshire police, still believe the two men are hiding somewhere in Britain. Yesterday London officers were questioning a woman arrested over the weekend under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Private care splits pit union

A private health care scheme launched by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers looked set last night to spill the union.

Members outside Nottinghamshire have accused the union's executive of "stabbing nurses in the back".

Mr Dick Emery, of the south Derbyshire branch of the union who represents 3,500 members in south Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, said: "I am disgusted and totally against the scheme."

"This is a stab in the back for our colleagues in Nupre and Cose, who are fighting hospital closures."

Tunnel Gun Club

Our report (September 17) about the hand-in of some 170 weapons by the Tunnel Rifle and Pistol Club of Devises described them as "illegal" firearms.

We accept that the weapons were in fact lawfully held, and were handed over by the Wiltshire Shooting Centre, an associated organization. They were thus disposed of not because they were illegal, but because they had become unsalable and surplus, and the centre wished to set an example by handing them in.

No suggestion of impropriety was intended, and we apologize to the club, the centre and their sister organization, Wiltshire Ballistic Services, for any embarrassment our report may have caused.

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Hastings chess tournament

Speelman regains his poise to win

By Raymond Keene and Harry Golombek

A dramatic clash between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman, Britain's two best players, dominated Saturday's ninth round of the Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster tournament at Hastings.

Short, rated third in the world, playing white, launched a fierce attack but faltered and allowed the initiative to pass to Speelman, rated fourth.

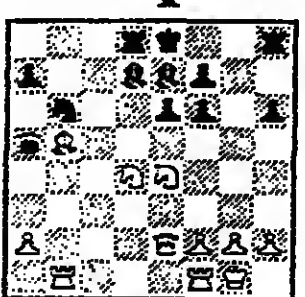
With both players extremely short of time Speelman suddenly offered to draw the game. Inexplicably, Short, with his position tottering, in an act of desperate

bravado, declined the offer. Within a few moves, Speelman regained his poise and finished Short off. Short resigned on move 35.

After his tense victory, Speelman, visibly exhausted, breathed a highly audible sigh of relief and exclaimed: "Thank God that's over!"

Murray Chandler and Boris Gulko played a careful positional game, agreeing an uneventful draw.

Viktor Korchnoi built up a solid position against Tony Kosten, which gave the former world champion play



End of play positions

and finally exceeded the time limit at the thirty-first move.

Vassily Smyslov had a long struggle with Bent Larsen, a draw finally being agreed on the sixteenth move.

Speelman now holds a clear

lead with a score of 5½ points from 9 possible.

Other scores after nine completed rounds: Speelman 5½, Short and Korchnoi 5, Gulko and Smyslov 4½, Chandler and Larsen 4, Kosten 3½.

Short white
1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 Nf3 d5 4 e5 g6 5 e6 g5 6 g5 e6 7 f2 e5 8 b2 e5 9 f3 c5 10 f4 e5 11 e5 e5 12 d2 e5 13 e4 e5 14 b4 e5 15 b4 e5 16 b4 e5 17 b5 e5 18 b6 e5
Speelman black
1 ... d5 2 ... d4 3 ... d4 4 ... d4 5 ... d4 6 ... d4 7 ... d4 8 ... d4 9 ... d4 10 ... d4 11 ... d4 12 ... d4 13 ... d4 14 ... d4 15 ... d4 16 ... d4 17 ... d4 18 ... d4
White resigns

Help for galleries

Modern art fund launched

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

The National Art Collections Fund (NACF), the art charity which last year helped Britain's museums and galleries to acquire works worth £10.5 million, is coming to the aid of museums and galleries in their quest to collect modern art in the face of soaring prices.

A Modern Art Fund is being launched by the Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, this evening at the NACF's Sotheby's exhibition of its acquisitions for the nation. The new fund aims to create an endowment to realize £250,000 a year to buy post-1930s art for the nation, separately from the NACF's

main fund, which will be for more traditional acquisitions. A development board drawn from the business world has been formed which Sir Peter Wakefield, NACF director, expects to deliver £3 million in three years to create the endowment.

He said: "What we are trying to do is separate the funding so that people who are interested in modern art can give it to a special fund with the security that it will be spent on nothing else."

A tawdry by the NACF of museums and galleries showed a need to build up twentieth century art collec-

tions, but that they were not turning to the fund because they did not expect a sympathetic response.

"Our twentieth century holdings throughout the country are not strong enough compared with, say, the nineteenth century, and it is a very sad situation which we want to remedy," Sir Peter said.

A number of corporate collections of modern art have been developing in the City where the NACF has useful contacts. Its chairman is Sir Nicholas Goodison, former chairman of the Stock Exchange, now head of the Trustee Savings Bank.

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Parents may have to guarantee good behaviour by pupils

By David Tytler
Education Editor

Parents of disruptive children may be asked to sign a contract of good behaviour with their children and the schools before suspended pupils are allowed to return to the classroom.

The contract is expected to be one of the recommendations of the government inquiry into school discipline when it reports next month, several weeks later than expected.

The inquiry, headed by Lord Elton, was set up last March by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in the wake of growing complaints from some of the education unions that teachers were coming under increasing threat of violence.

Draft reports of the inquiry team indicate that Lord Elton, a former Home Office minister, has largely rejected those claims. But the inquiry will recommend that all incidents of violence in schools are recorded on a national register so for the first time it will be possible to have an accurate picture of classroom violence.

The committee's main recommendations will be designed to deal with the growing tendency towards abusive and disruptive behaviour.

The committee sees that as the teacher's biggest problem.

Exam boycott begins today

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

A boycott of the entire examining process by university dons begins today and will immediately affect undergraduate sitting mid-session examinations and those undertaking projects which count towards their degrees.

Although student unions have offered their support for the 33,000 members of the Association of University Teachers, who are taking action in protest at the vice-chancellors' decision not to award them a pay rise this year, individual students may react differently if their careers are disrupted.

The National Union of

A growing shortage of experienced managers could defeat government plans to cut inner London Education Authority spending by more than £70 million next year and could lead to a "major breakdown" of services.

A report by senior Ilea executives urges the authority to ask the Government to raise the amount it can levy on rates by about £40 million next year. That would mean a cut in the Ilea budget of £35 million.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, said: "It all sounds very wet. Anybody who thinks teachers today face nothing more serious than answering back are just not living in the real world."

However, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I do hope we are not going to be diverted into a debate about whether or not there has been an increase in incidents of violence distracting us from the main problems." The Elton committee wants to see a change in teacher training, giving more emphasis to practical teaching skills and methods of dealing with difficult classes.

There should also be closer co-operation between parents and schools and a system of

praising and rewarding good behaviour, the committee believes.

Mr Hart added: "A survey of hours showed that the far greater problem is disruptive behaviour; the grinding wear of consistent abusive behaviour from an increasing minority of pupils who are out of sympathy with their schools. There are a number of things that can be done, including the adequate provision of special units to deal with disruptive pupils, but that is not the only solution."

"There should be swift transfer of pupils who would benefit from a fresh start in another school. But we also have to look for much greater parental assistance and a more positive approach to good behaviour."

"We should also examine the curriculum to see that it is sufficiently stimulating. There is no doubt that some children are switched off by their lessons and it is by no means certain that the national curriculum will solve this particular problem."

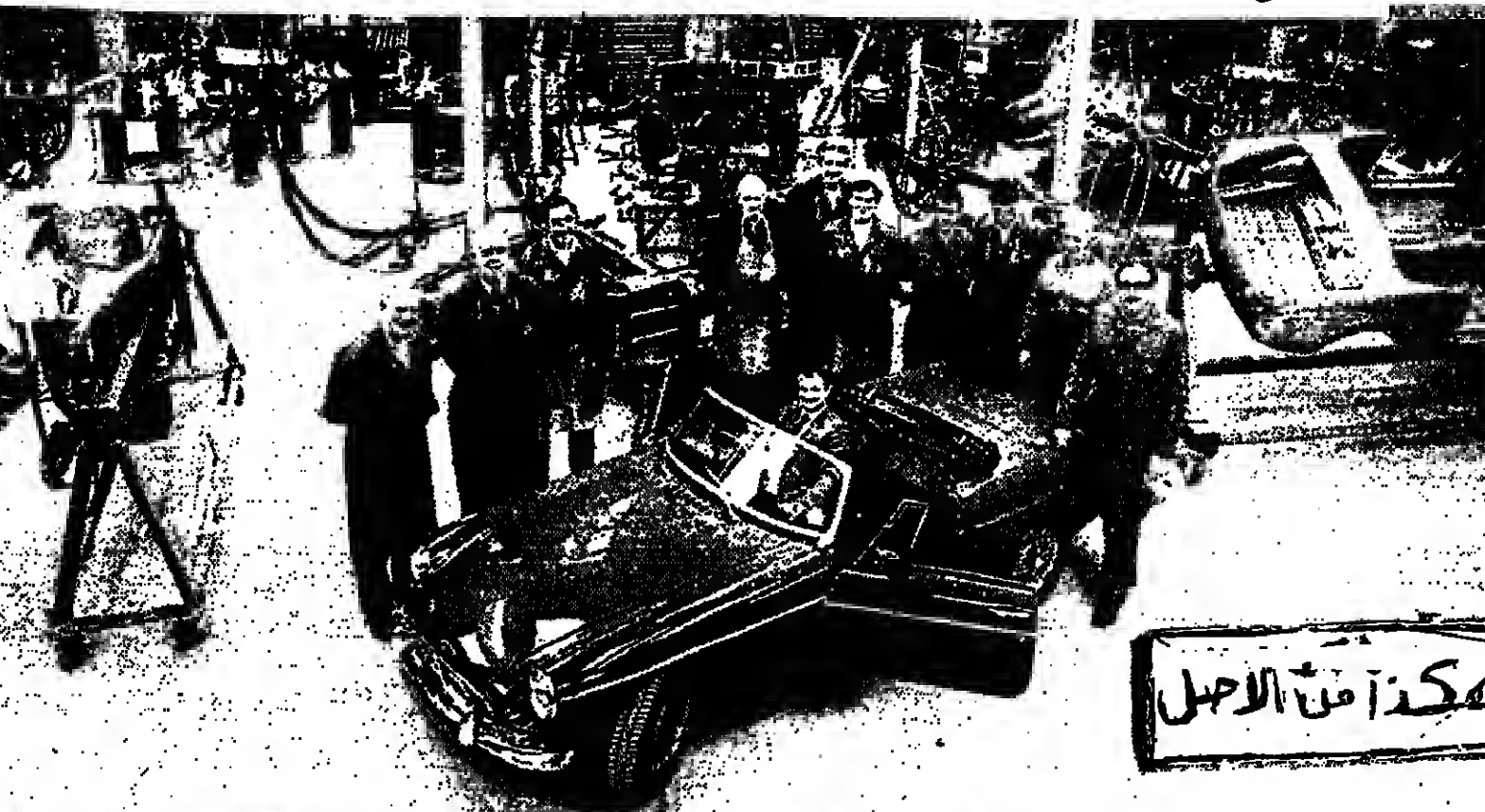
"All these matters need to be swept up and dealt with in one package. And if Elton has fallen down on the job. We do not want a candy floss solution where the teacher is patted pattingly on the head and told things are not as bad as all that."

The "confusion" over whether proposals to introduce student loans represent an increase or a cut in public expenditure. He also wants an explanation of the "almost total contradiction" in statements made about the cost of the loan scheme by the Secretary of State for Education.

"Sensible public debate about the merits of different systems of student support — and alternatives to the White Paper's proposals — is undermined so long as the Government is unclear about the purpose of its schemes, and its costing," Mr Straw says.

Leading article, page 11

Business booms at the MGB bodyshop



The bodybuilders — all former MGB craftsmen — among the sought-after classic sports car shells they are turning out from their Oxfordshire workshop.

British Motor Heritage is to increase production of the MGB, Britain's best loved sports car, at the new body shell production plant at Farlington, Oxfordshire (Ruth Gledhill writes).

BMH, a wholly owned independent subsidiary of the Rover Group, is to increase body shell output by half.

The company admits to being "extremely surprised" by the demand for the car, scrapped a decade ago by British Leyland, now the Rover Group.

Mr David Fisher, the director of BMH, said he originally expected to produce up to 300 right-hand drive

shells at a rate of about five a week, from May last year. But by the end of 1988, production had doubled and from yesterday the factory was working to 15 a week, near its maximum capacity of 20, and with orders up to the end of this year.

Two more men have been em-

ployed, bringing the total to 14 and Mr Fisher is looking for an apprentice. All the employees so far are retired MGB craftsmen.

BMH is now thinking of producing complete cars. Profits from the £1,395 body shell go to the British motor industry's Heritage Trust.

Corporate fraud costs £1.5bn

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

White collar crime is costing British industry £1.5 billion a year and has forced a number of companies into liquidation, according to a report published today.

Employee theft is identified as the most prevalent form of corporate crime, while computer fraud, bribery, espionage and insider-dealing also take their toll.

The report, for corporate defence specialists, Saladin Security, showed that in a survey of 202 large and medium-size UK companies, 54 per cent had experienced corporate fraud, although only 10 per cent regarded it as a threat.

White Collar Crime in the UK (Saladin Security, 7 Abingdon Road, London W8 6AH; £250).

Publishers agreement in danger

Bookshops' price war threat

By Robin Young

Publishers and booksellers yesterday scorned claims that Britain's fastest growing chain of bookshops plans to overturn the Net Book Agreement and start a price war.

The move has been mooted by Puntos, which owns 38 Dillons bookshops and 12 Athena stores. Puntos has 210,000 square feet of selling space, of which about 170 square feet was added last year. The group at present claims about 5 per cent of book sales in Britain, but aims to treble its market share within five years.

Mr Terry Maher, company chairman, said yesterday he would not say when Puntos would start discounting prices on new books but predicted that it would be this year. A

director of a leading publishing company, Hodder & Stoughton, said yesterday: "He said that last year too, and in 1987, if I recall."

Insiders in the publishing industry are sceptical that Mr Maher's prediction will be fulfilled this year either. The Net Book Agreement is one of the few remaining areas of retail price maintenance in Britain. The book trade was specifically exempted from Mr Edward Heath's abolition of RPM in the 1960s because it was feared that without it the number of titles published would fall and many small bookshops would be put out of business.

In fact, many books are already published outside the NBA and are subject to dis-

counting from the moment they appear. Puntos reckons discounted books already represent about 3 per cent of its sales.

If a bookshop chain chose to defy the agreement and to start price cutting on books published under it, the almost certain consequence would be that the Publishers' Association would apply for an injunction to stop the sales, and would refuse to supply the chain with net books again, and would expel from membership any net book publisher who did so.

Mr Maher says that increased sales would make the discounting worthwhile. Others doubt that price cutting could obtain any long term advantage.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Three winners shared last week's £8,000 Portfolio prize.

Dr Michael Hawken, aged 61, of Wolverton, Basingstoke, Hampshire, will give some money to charity.

Mr James McLaren, aged 63, a retired school caretaker, of Jelliff Street, Nuneaton, will spend his winnings on his home.

Mrs Ruth James, aged 51, of Warwick Road, Ashford, Middlesex, will buy a new gear box for her car.

Murder case

A man who was charged at Dartford in Kent on Saturday with the attempted murder of a police officer is being questioned by detectives investigating the Surrey M25 killing and break-ins.

Street lighting call

Police woman's night fears

By Stewart Tendler and Mark Sooster

Scotland Yard's senior woman police officer would herself be worried about walking alone at night in some London streets, according to an interview for a Granada television programme tonight on women and crime.

Asked what developments she would like to see in the next 10 years, Commander Thelma Wagstaff, head of a Yard working party on rape, told the programme one key area was better lighting for high-rise buildings and lifts.

She told the programme: "I find it very frightening myself having to get in a lift and go up 10 flights when there's really not much lighting. You are worried that somebody's going to come up behind you."

The programme by the World In Action team includes a survey which shows that 90 per cent of the women approached are frightened about going out at night and 67 per cent would go out only when necessary.

Women were asked for the cause of their fear and 41 per cent said they were influenced by what newspapers, 34 per cent spoke of the general rise in crime and only 4 per cent had been assaulted.

In her interview, Commander Wagstaff said: "I wouldn't say I was totally fearful but I do have certain fear. For example I think there are places in London that I wouldn't like to walk out if I was alone at night."

Commander Wagstaff also

More than 95 per cent of people eligible for rewards under the Crimestoppers scheme run by Scotland Yard and a business-inspired charity have declined to claim any money in the first year of the scheme in London. Rewards of between £50 and £500 can be paid by a panel formed by the Community Action Trust. In London, the scheme has resulted in 3,000 calls leading to 161 arrests. Police have recovered £500,000 in stolen property and drugs worth £500,000.

suggested that the way police issued warnings might also aggravate fear and the police might be more careful in the way they framed publicity.

She said: "I know it is not acceptable that we don't feel able to walk out on commons late at night or on dark streets but we really do have to take precautions because society is more violent."

She said it was rather silly and naive of a woman to go into a public house after 9pm, accept a casual drink from a stranger and a lift home.

Commander Wagstaff said one solution to violent crime lay in schools where children should be taught to pay more respect to other individuals.

Another lay with the courts which had become a little lax. Prisons were overcrowded but violent crime should be unacceptable and earn a long prison sentence.

An ambitious redevelopment programme, costing £2.75 million, has dramati-

cally reduced the fear of crime in an estate in north London. Eighteen months ago the high-rise Barbot Street Estate in Edmonton, was a bleak inhospitable place in which to live.

"Rape, muggings, arson and petty crime were commonplace. Crime and perhaps more importantly fear of crime kept many residents marooned in their 'vertical prisons'."

The four vandalized, graffiti-strewn 22-storey tower blocks seemed to exemplify all that was bad about living in 'vertical villages'.

But in the space of a year, the redevelopment programme, a remarkable example of co-operation between residents, the Safe Neighbourhood Unit and Conservative-controlled Enfield Borough Council, improved the estate.

It is hoped the project will get the seal of approval from the Government when, as expected, Lord Calthouse, the Minister for Housing, officially "reopens" the estate in April.

The council brought in the Safe Neighbourhood Unit as consultants and, after meetings with residents, work began last autumn.

Gone are the broken doors, smashed windows, filth, mess and with them went the general feeling of despair, coupled with an almost constant diet of crime.

"This is all about adding the human touch and this is what this project is all about," Mr Paul Wright, Edmonton's housing officer, said.

He was now unable to work or indulge in his hobbies. He was unable to leave home without the help of friends and spent his time watching television.

He did not go to a rehabilitation centre because there was not one close to his home, but with the aid of his artificial leg he has learnt to walk a little.

He began his fight for compensation in 1983 but was devastated when, he says, the initial British Transport Police investigation concluded he had tried to commit suicide. He denied this and, in response to an advertisement, a witness who saw him being chased came forward.

He appealed against a rejection of his claim and, with the backing of Mr Ken Stokes, co-ordinator of a victim support scheme, he was eventually awarded £500,000.

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Crime victim awarded £1½m

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A crime victim who won £1½m compensation — the highest in Britain — for injuries after a four-year legal battle yesterday said he established to overcome his disabilities and set up a business in Greece.

The Essex man aged 48 had his right leg amputated above the knee and his left hand amputated at mid-forearm. His right wrist is partly paralysed and he can use only the thumb and forefinger of his right hand.

He has bought funfair equipment, engineering machine tools and construction machinery to develop a pleasure park.

He will invest part of his award from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, along with grants from the Greek government, and he plans to have a suitably converted house, a permanent

nurse, wheelchair, specially adapted car and artificial limbs. He aims to make fairground equipment and get the business established so that he can resume painting, playing musical instruments and making model steam engines.

The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "Life is a challenge." He worked in the construction business before he was injured in June 1983.

The compensation board, in its annual report, says the man was badly injured by a train while trying to escape from youths who assaulted him. The victim says he was injured in the attack. He was found lying between two railway tracks.

The report said: "He was unable to cook for himself or carry out personal hygiene...

He was now unable to work or indulge in his hobbies. He was unable to leave home without the help of friends and spent his time watching television.

He did not go to a rehabilitation centre because there was not one close to his home, but with the aid of his artificial leg he has learnt to walk a little.

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MALE		NEW BUSINESS		NEW BUSINESS		NEW BUSINESS		NEW BUSINESS		NEW BUSINESS		NEW BUSINESS	
UP TO	DOWN TO	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
18-24	24	35,857	44,678	28,145	35,368	21,874	27,464	15,243	19,789	11,761	15,032		
25-34	34	38,167	46,984	30,455	37,681	24,201	30,391	21,743	26,725	13,689	17,671		
35-44	44	41,482	50,881	33,223	40,449	26,336	32,604	23,024	28,100	14,665	18,645		
45-54	54	45,157	55,155	36,805	44,031	29,430	35,700	25,148	30,526	16,156	20,136		
55-64	64	49,183	59,181	40,781	48,007	32,404	38,674	27,172	32,550	17,646	21,626		
65-74	74	48,415	58,413	39,818	47,044	31,717	37,987	26,181	31,361	17,361	21,341		
75-84	84	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
85-94	94	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
95-104	104	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
105-114	114	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
115-124	124	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
125-134	134	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
135-144	144	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
145-154	154	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
155-164	164	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
165-174	174	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
175-184	184	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
185-194	194	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
195-204	204	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
205-214	214	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
215-224	224	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
225-234	234	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
235-244	244	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
245-254	254	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
255-264	264	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
265-274	274	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
275-284	284	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
285-294	294	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
295-304	304	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
305-314	314	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
315-324	324	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
325-334	334	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
335-344	344	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
345-354	354	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
355-364	364	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
365-374	374	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
375-384	384	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
385-394	394	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
395-404	404	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
405-414	414	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
415-424	424	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
425-434	434	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
435-444	444	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
445-454	454	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
455-464	464	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
465-474	474	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
475-484	484	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
485-494	494	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
495-504	504	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
505-514	514	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
515-524	524	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
525-534	534	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
535-544	544	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
545-554	554	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
555-564	564	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
565-574	574	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
575-584	584	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
585-594	594	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
595-604	604	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
605-614	614	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
615-624	624	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
625-634	634	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
635-644	644	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
645-654	654	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
655-664	664	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
665-674	674	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
675-684	684	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
685-694	694	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
695-704	704	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
705-714	714	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
715-724	724	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
725-734	734	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
735-744	744	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
745-754	754	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
755-764	764	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476	28,630	33,810	18,851	22,831		
765-774	774	52,005	62,003	43,307	50,533	34,206	40,476						

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Plan reveals luxury hotel and business park in tennis and golf centre

Green Belt crusaders to fight sports complex

By Michael Horsnell

Secret development plans which would destroy a large area of ancient woodland are expected to test the Government's determination to keep control over the nation's stock of Green Belt land.

A multi-million pound proposal is on the drawing board to build an international golf and tennis complex with a five-star hotel, conference centre and American-style stadium on a 1,500-acre site amid the wild primroses and herds of fallow deer at Prince's Coverts near Oxshott in Surrey.

Inquiries by *The Times* disclose the organization behind the plan is a small private company with a start-up capital of £75,000. To pay for the complex it is seeking financial partners to build an accompanying business park and luxurious residential property.

The scheme has received the endorsement of Sir Neil Macfarlane, the former sports minister, but he said he had not been informed that commercial and residential development were riding on its back.

The company, which gives itself the sporting motif of The Players Club, lists its address as 100 Park Lane, London W1.

That is the address of the headquarters of the Hammonson Property Investment & Development Corporation. The Players Club has an office there but there is no financial or other link between the two.

The Times has also discovered from a confidential letter

indications that the Crown Estate Commission, the owners of the unspoiled woodland, may be keen to conclude a deal in spite of an initial denial from its London office.

Mr Keith Beresford, a chartered patent agent and chairman of the Elmbridge Green Belt and Urban Open Space Association (Evergreen), said: "This is a classic example of a company presenting itself as a sports-orientated organization with plans for the improvement of sporting facilities but very much playing down the vital fact that the whole project would be financed by commercial and residential development on Green Belt land. We shall fight it all the way."

Mr Richard Bate, for the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "Open recreational or sports facilities are normally not incompatible with Green Belt. But many developers are greedy in their expectations as to what they might build on the land on the back of what might otherwise be tolerable."

Although Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, has publicly declared against Green Belt encroachment, recent government planning policy guidance to local authorities encourages a more sympathetic approach to applications for sports facilities.

The Players Club is a little known company originally incorporated as Glasson on July 23, 1984. It has since changed its name twice.

Its capital is held by Players



Mr Peter Dimmock (top) and Mr Harvey, founder of The Players Club, and the woodland publicized in the video film.

club Holdings Ltd, of Jersey, whose exotically named shareholders — Oleo One Ltd, Oleo Two Ltd and Oleo Three Ltd — are resident at the offices of Ogier & Cornu, a St Helier firm of advocates and notaries.

Players Club Ltd last filed accounts for the year ended December 1986 and these were qualified by the auditors. It has applied to the Crown Estate Commission to buy and develop Prince's Coverts into what it calls the European Golf and Tennis Academy and National Training Centre. The Crown Estate Commission



Mr Peter Dimmock (top) and Mr Harvey, founder of The Players Club, and the woodland publicized in the video film.

sioners say they have yet to consider formally the proposal, which includes two 18-hole and a nine-hole "executive" golf courses, two tennis stadiums for 8,000 spectators together with an indoor centre with nine courts seating another 6,000 people, and 14 all-weather courts.

A five-star hotel, clubhouse complexes and a range of offices complete the proposal.

In spite of an initial denial by the Crown Estate Commission that negotiations for the sale of the land have begun, however, there are indications the commis-

sioners may be keen to sell and that informal talks have indeed started.

A letter from Mr Henry Clarke, deputy chief executive of the Crown Estate Commission Office, to Mr Michael Harvey, chief executive of The Players Club, says: "Whilst the board has not as yet given its approval to a full planning application being made in respect of the comprehensive scheme, I have been asked to further my discussions with you and your colleagues."

It concludes that a relief road through Oxshott, made necessary by the com-

pany for potential partners, is presented by Mr Peter Dimmock, the former BBC television sports commentator, who is described as a director of The Players Club. His name is not listed as such at Companies House.

He was not available for comment but in his video narrative Mr Dimmock says: "To pay for the European Golf and Tennis Academy the project will have to be underwritten by carefully planned peripheral commercial and residential development."

The Players Club has not yet applied for planning permission to Elmbridge council, although an application is expected soon.

Mr Donald McKerron, chairman of Elmbridge planning committee, said: "If an application is lodged and involves residential and commercial development in the Green Belt it will get the thumbs down."

"So far as I understand it the three golf courses alone will take up about 500 acres and then there is the tennis complex and various buildings. Golf courses might be suitable for the Green Belt but an hotel, commercial and residential development certainly are not."

If a planning application is lodged and refused by the council an appeal is expected to be made to Mr Ridley and a public inquiry ordered.

The proposal is the inspiration of Mr Harvey, founder of The Players Club. He says on the video tape: "We wanted to find the perfect site for establishing the academy and we believe we have found it at

Prince's Coverts. The accessibility of the site provides us with a unique opportunity not only to create an academy for the teaching of both golf and tennis but also a new international venue for the staging of major events for both sports."

The video film includes a filmed endorsement of the project by Sir Neil Macfarlane, who says: "I hope it will be successful. It deserves to be. It's exactly what this country needs."

But he told *The Times*: "I had not been informed, when I was filmed, about the proposed property and hotel developments in the scheme. That of course is pie in the sky."

"It is wholly unrealistic in Great Britain to expect anything other than straight-forward sporting activities to be approved."

"Sporting facilities are admirable but other developments on their back cannot possibly be contemplated in the Green Belt."

Another endorsement for the scheme is given by Mr Peter Allis, director of the Professional Golfers Association. He was not available for comment.

Mr Harvey declined to speak to *The Times* but in a statement said: "For some considerable time we have been looking for a suitable location in order to establish a prestigious golf and tennis teaching centre and are still evaluating various sites around the country."

"In this context I can confirm we have approached local landowners regarding a possible site in the Oxshott area."

MPs call to curb developers

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A campaign to prevent property developers buying suburban gardens and playing fields by unfair means has been launched by a group led by Sir Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent North.

The group, formed with help from Hugh Dykes, Conservative MP for Havon East, who drew attention to the problem, emerged since Sir Rhodes raised the subject on the Queen's Speech debate in November 30.

Sir Rhodes said yesterday that the campaign, which he has called Nimby (Not In My Back Yard), aims to force the Government to legislate to curb developers and speculators who put pressure on

local people for their land. The group hopes that a sympathetic MP will launch a private member's Bill. At present, the law is weighted in favour of the developer, who can make a planning application without even owning the land, and also has a right of appeal against rejection by the local authority.

Sir Rhodes wants legislation to give a right of appeal to local people; stop property being pulled down without planning permission; refuse permission for a planning application to people who do not own the land; and to refuse permission for changes to playing fields without an automatic calling in of the application to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Householders seeking local authority approval for an extension and developers asking for planning permission will in future have to pay the full cost of employing the town hall officials who process their applications. If an Association of District Councils proposal is carried (David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent, writes).

The Conservative-controlled association is discussing whether to ask developers to pay full administrative costs of handling their planning applications. At present, councils are allowed to recoup a maximum of 60 per cent.

Prayer and vigil mark Beirut hostages day

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

A special service to mark the second anniversary of the detention of Mr Terry Waite in Beirut is to be held in Chester Cathedral, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Waite, who was born and brought up in Cheshire, disappeared while trying to make contact with the kidnappers of western hostages.

Meanwhile friends of Mr John McCarthy, one of the hostages Mr Waite was trying to help, are to hold a vigil outside the Iran embassy tomorrow to mark the thousandth day of his detention, and present a petition at No 10.

Mr McCarthy, a television

Chain of command clarified

By David Cross

The Channel Swimming Association has approved new rules to clarify the chain of command during attempts, as a result of the death of Renata Agondi, the Brazilian long-distance champion, last summer.

The association decided after a seven-hour weekend meeting at Folkestone, Kent, that the final word in determining whether a swim should continue or be called off should be with the captain of the escorting boat.

During Agondi's ill-fated swim last August, there was confusion on board the 50ft trawler Hilda May, because her trainer, Senhora Judith Russo, allegedly wanted to continue the crossing while Mr Colin Cook, the pilot, argued that it should be abandoned. Mr Cook felt that Agondi, aged 20, would not be able to complete the crossing because she was swimming in circles and clearly in distress.

In the event, she became unconscious about three miles off the French coast and efforts to resuscitate her on board the Hilda May failed.

She is believed to have died of hypothermia, although the full details of the post-mortem examination have not yet been disclosed by the French authorities.

Mr Ray Scott, chairman of the association, said yesterday that there had to be somebody on a boat with ultimate responsibility for deciding whether a cross-Channel swim should continue. "We are now empowering the skipper to stop a swim, if he thinks this is the proper course."

To ensure that all those on board understood the position, the captain, the trainer, the swimmer and the observer for the association would have to sign a document stating that they had "read, understood and agreed to abide" by this new rule, he said.

But the association had decided not to insist that all swimmers from countries with warm climates should undergo a cold-water test of five hours in Dover harbour, Mr Scott said.

The new rule book will, however, detail the problem of hypothermia and explain how

it can dull swimmers' senses and make them act irrationally.

Mr Scott acknowledged that the rule changes would not necessarily guarantee complete safety for cross-Channel swimmers. "We've got to admit that there is an element of risk in this type of sport. This is probably why so many people want to try to swim the Channel", he said.

Before the new cross-Channel swimming season opens in July, Mr Scott and his wife, Mrs Audrey Scott, secretary of the association, will explain the new rules to the French authorities.

Meanwhile Mr Cook, Senhora Russo, Mr Mark Lewis, the American observer investigating Agondi's swim, and Mr Graham Featherbe, the mate of the Hilda May, are still waiting for a full hearing of their court case in Boulogne. They have all been charged under French law with failing to help an endangered person and, if convicted, they could be jailed for up to five years.

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Searchlight on the exact role of Civil Servants

In Richard Crossman's notorious diaries, a Civil Servant called Frederick Bishop has a walk-on role as the butt of Evelyn Sharp, the great dame running the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Bishop was head of the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, which threatened her, and Crossman's empire, and was ambushed and pummeled. But six years before that, Bishop had been principal private secretary to the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, and in the documentation released last week under the 30-year rule, was shown to be a lively confidant.

Reginald Maudling, who was opposing Macmillan's idea of "special commissioners" to go off to the high-unemployment regions and attract industry, was "mistaken", according to a Bishop note. As Bishop was in no obvious way different from his fellow Civil Servants, it has to be assumed others would, and did, act in

a similar way, making judgements about ministers, which approaches remarkably close to doing politics.

And nowadays? It is easy to imagine that Mr Charles Powell, or others in Mrs Thatcher's entourage, write her memos telling her minister so-and-so is mistaken. That is the role, presumably, of the confidential adviser which is what Civil Servants are supposed to be. But in tendering such advice, do Civil Servants need to share the values of their political masters and, if they don't, where do they derive their value judgements from?

One place to turn for an answer to that question is Peter Hennessy's compendious book, *Whitehall*, published today a many-room portrait gallery of the men who have made the nation's permanent government.

Yet there remain teasing gaps in the story of what it is that Civil Servants actually do. Was Freddie Bishop, in 1958, making industrial location

policy in his advice to Harold Macmillan?

Even in a decade when most new policies have sprung fully-formed from party manifestos, or at least from the stump speeches of ministers, Civil Servants have made a difference — to housing policy, for example, or in the detail of fiscal policy — yet we, the taxpayer, are none the wiser about the whos and the hows of the process by which Civil Servants make, as opposed to carry out, policies.

In an article in *The Times Literary Supplement* this weekend, Sir Alec Cairncross, a former Treasury chief economic adviser, and hence someone with hands-on experience, identifies the contribution made by Edward Bridges when he was permanent secretary at the Treasury.

He gave the wrong advice, Cairncross says, on two occasions: prematurely urging a return to convertibility for sterling and leading

then then Chancellor of the Exchequer, R A Butler, into over-reliance on monetary policy.

On how many other occasions have Civil Servants tendered the wrong advice? The fact is, constitutional doctrine rules that question out of order, as ministers alone are supposed to propose and dispose.

In this respect, Peter Hennessy's book — though it can be read as a paean to the system — is subversive. The more we know about permanent officials, the more we are likely to want to know about their intimate connection with public policy.

That very quest disturbs the comfortable fictions of the parliamentary set-up as it is, and the threadbare notion of ministerial responsibility. The reticence and anonymity of most permanent secretaries is not becoming modesty; it is highly functional.

Whitehall (Peter Hennessy, Secker and Warburg, £20).

Motorway repairs

Delays on North Circular

Delays on the North Circular Road in London are expected for the next 10 weeks because of resurfacing and cable ducting.

The closures, beginning at 8pm on Thursday until 5am the following day, will start at the A10 Great Cambridge Road junction on the east-bound carriageway and continue at the same time on subsequent nights until work is completed.

The Department of Transport says that only one length of carriageway will be closed to traffic at any one time. Alternative routes will be signposted.

Motorists are advised to allow extra time for their journeys.

Derbyshire police prosecuted two motor-cyclists for the first time last month after using an experimental roadside noise meter.

Both the motor-cyclists were given £12 fixed penalty tickets after their machines registered more than 103 decibels in a new static test devised by Mr David Romaine, the Derby City Council noise pollution officer.

After talks with the Crown Prosecution Service, the

police have agreed to warn motor-cyclists whose machines are found to register between 97 and 103 decibels in the static test.

Two motor-cyclists also received warnings, a spokesman for Derby road traffic department which is carrying out the noise tests, said.

Mr Romaine presented a paper at the National Society for Clean Air's annual conference in Llandudno last year after testing more than 400 motor-cyclists.

Roadworks until next Monday:

London and South-east

M40 Buckinghamshire: east-bound lane closures jns 5-4 (High Wycombe/Stokenchurch).

M2 Hampshire: northbound lane closures jns 9-8 (A303/A272); southbound lane closures jns 6-7 (A339/A30).

M20 Kent: lane closures jns 11-12 (Hythe/Cheriton); no emergency telephones jns 12-13 (M3/Saints); lane closures to jn 11 (Cheriton).

Midlands and East Anglia

M1 Northamptonshire: lane closures jns 15 (Northampton); roadworks on roundabout.

M5 Hereford/Worcester: lane closures jns 4-4a (Bromsgrove/M42).

North

M56 Greater Manchester: lane closures jns 3 (Baguley-M63 interchange).

M62 Greater Manchester: delays jns 21-22 (Ollingworth/Saddleworth).

M63 Greater Manchester: two lane closures jns 3-6 (Barton/A6144).

M62 Humber: contraflow jns 36-37 (Goole/Howden).

M180 Humber: lane closures jns 1-3 (A614/Scunthorpe).

A1M Co Durham: lane closure between Bradbury and Blackfell.

M1 West Yorkshire: lane closures jns 40-42 (A638/M62).

Wales and West

M5 Somerset: lane restrictions jns 21-26 (Bristol/Taunton).

M4 Avon: westbound lane restrictions at Severn Bridge.

Scotland

M9 Central: southbound lane closure jns 9 (Bannockburn).

M90 Fife: southbound lane and slip closure at Admiralty flyover.

M8 Strathclyde: westbound access road closed jns 14 (Glasgow); restrictions jns 8 (St James interchange).

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch

Classroom answer to violence

By Stewart Tensler, Crime Reporter

The school classroom may hold one of the long term answers to the growing problems of rural violence, according to Mr John Evans, new chief constable of Devon and Cornwall.

He believes greater discipline in schools, an inculcation of civil pride and school programmes where the police can meet children free of confrontation will help to curb rural violence.

Mr Evans, aged 45 and a policeman for 28 years, is one of Britain's youngest chief constables. Until last week he was deputy chief constable in Surrey, another area plagued by drunken violence.

He believes one of his main tasks will be to train his force to deal with rural violence and how to prevent trouble erupting. But he does not want his officers employing the tactics and equipment used in inner city riots.

The RUC recently announced that it was abandoning a number of community programmes and other chief constables are wondering about whether scarce police resources can be put into community work such as youth club programmes. But Mr Evans believes one way forward for the police and the community lies in building up relationships with the young.

He said: "I think the schools have got a problem which I know they are tackling and we hope to assist them. I think there is a breakdown in respect for authority." There were young people who found it difficult to accept authority and the first time they might be told "no" could be by a policeman in the street.

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Change of Mortgage Interest Rates

The base rate of interest charged to existing borrowers with variable loans subject to 7 days notice, will increase by 0.75% per annum, except where the amount advanced was £60,000 or over when the rate of interest will increase by 0.70% per annum. These changes will take effect on 16 January 1989.

Borrowers subject to other periods of notice will be advised separately of the effect of these changes on their accounts.

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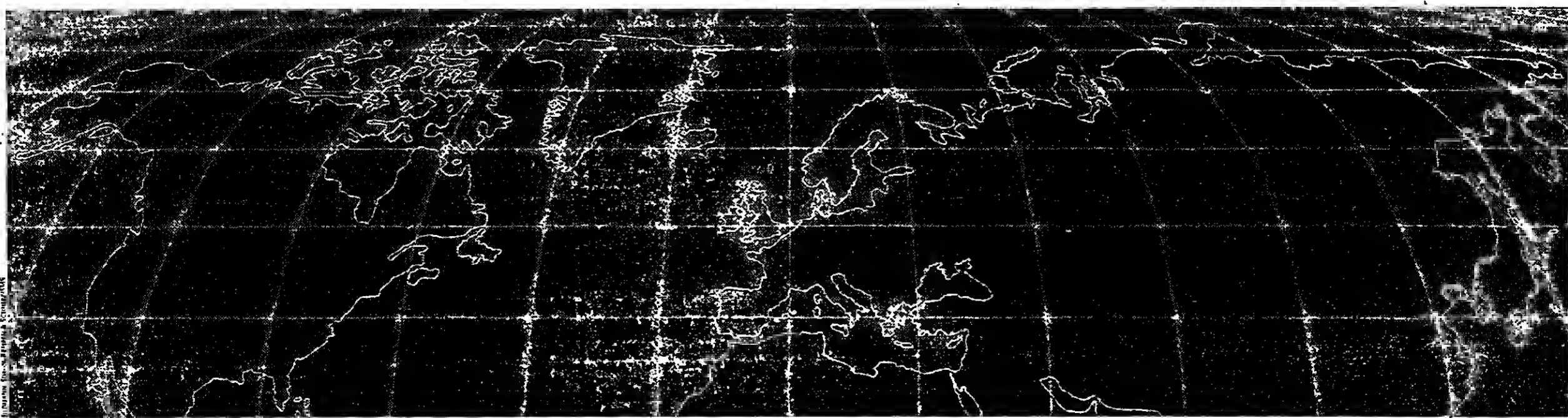
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is more powerful
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Victor Hugo
(French novelist, 1802-1885)

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Multi-millionaire Texan to be next US Ambassador to Britain

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

Mr Henry Catto, aged 55, named by President-elect George Bush as the next United States Ambassador to London, is a multi-millionaire Texan whose marriage took him into one of America's richest families, with assets valued at \$800 million (£445 million).

He has known Mr Bush well since the early 1960s. He held a variety of jobs under Republican presidents over the past two decades, including the post of Ambassador to El Salvador under President Nixon.

Mr Catto was White House Chief of Protocol under President Ford and, from 1981 to 1983, he was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, the Pentagon's chief spokesman.

His wife, Jessica, whose family



Mr Catto: Expected to take up his London post in the Spring.

formerly owned the *Houston Post*, was publisher of the *Washington Journalism Review* and writes frequently on news media and foreign policy issues. Her

brother, Mr Bill Hobby, is

Lieutenant-Governor of Texas. Mr Catto and Mr Hobby share extensive business interests, including six television stations and one radio station.

Mr Bush is understood initially to have offered the ambassadorship to an old Texas friend, Mr Will Farrish, who owns the ranch where the President-elect went hunting and fishing at Christmas. He turned it down.

Mrs Catto, aged 50, was named last September in a *Washington* magazine as one of the 100 richest people with homes in the city. She came in the category of those worth between \$50 million and \$75 million. Her father, the late Mr William Hobby, was a Governor of Texas and publisher of the *Houston Post*, which was sold in 1983 for \$130 million. Her mother, Mrs Oveita Culp Hobby,

who was the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, lives in Houston and controls the family's fortune.

After years of losing money publishing the *Washington Journalism Review*, the Catto family recently donated the magazine to the University of Maryland's school of journalism.

Mr Catto, who is expected to take up his appointment in the Spring, was one of several key personalities named by Mr Bush to guide US diplomacy in the next four years. All are considered pragmatic, middle-of-the-road figures with extensive foreign policy or other government experience. The appointments suggest that foreign policy will be more centrist than it was under the Reagan Administration, especially in its early years.

Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, who

soared to prominence during the 1970s as a close aide to Dr Henry Kissinger, then Secretary of State, was named as Assistant Secretary of State. He spent 27 years in the Foreign Service and became Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs under the Reagan Administration.

General Vernon Walters, the Ambassador at the United Nations, was named as Ambassador to Bonn. A remarkable facility for languages helped him to develop a lengthy career in intelligence and secret diplomatic missions. He was Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in the early 1970s, when he blocked a White House attempt to avert the Watergate investigation.

Mr Donald Gregg, formerly Vice-President Bush's assistant for national security affairs, was named as Ambassador to South

Korea. He had a 30-year career with the CIA, including 18 years in Asia where, among other assignments, he was Seoul station chief. Britain pleased: The announcement that Mr Catto is to be the next US Ambassador to Britain was enthusiastically welcomed in London yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

Sir Peter Blaker, MP for Blackpool South and a former chairman of the Conservative foreign affairs committee, said: "It is an indication of the importance Mr Bush places in relations with this country."

Mr George Robertson, Labour's deputy foreign affairs spokesman, said: "He is clearly an insider with the Bush team, so it looks like a good appointment."

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP and a former Foreign Secretary, said: "It is very good news

that we should be having an Ambassador who is apparently very close to the President and someone who can carry influence and clout where it counts, in the White House. So it is a good appointment so far as Britain is concerned."

Mr Catto will replace Mr Charles Price, aged 57, who was appointed in November 1983 and is seen as a very effective ambassador. "Charles Price did a good job and has helped the American image in Britain," Mr Robertson said.

It was during Mr Price's period that Anglo-American relations recovered from strains left by the American invasion of Grenada and demonstrations against the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain. The links subsequently reached an exceptionally warm and close state.

Shevardnadze steals limelight from Shultz at international weapons conference in Paris

West sees publicity coup in Kremlin's chemical arms offer

By Philip Jacobson, Michael Evans and Andrew McEwen

The announcement yesterday by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, at the international chemical weapons conference in Paris that the Kremlin would start destroying its chemical warfare stocks this year is seen by the West as a classic example of Moscow seeking to gain maximum kudos for doing something which is clearly in its own interest.

It was not the first time that the Soviet Union had declared its intentions. President Gorbachev said in April, 1987, that production of chemical weapons would stop, and announced that a factory was under construction — at Chapeyevsk, on the River Volga — to destroy existing stocks. The plant is due to be finished this spring.

A senior official with the US delegation in Paris insisted that Moscow was only "playing catch-up" in response to two years of initiatives previously undertaken by Washington. "What the Soviets have suggested today is a response to what the US has done, is, doing and will con-

tinue to do," he declared, pointing out that America had abandoned all production in 1969 — almost two decades before Moscow had followed suit. The US resumed production at the end of 1987, saying it had to modernize to keep pace with the Soviet build-up.

An American pilot plant for destroying chemical weapons was already operating "routinely" in Utah, the official said, and another facility would become operational on Johnston Island in the Pacific during 1989.

Mr Shevardnadze said yesterday that Moscow favoured the most stringent methods of inspection and verification — "short-notice challenge" without right of refusal — and was ready to do everything possible to conclude an international convention in 1989.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who is to speak at the Paris conference today, said: "If they are going to join in opening up the information about what they have as a first step towards destruction, that is extremely welcome and that

is a key thing that could take forward a real convention in Geneva."

Western sources say it is in Moscow's interest to get rid of some of its chemical weapons for a number of reasons.

First, for years the Soviet Union has kept huge stocks of nerve agents contained in shells which have become unstable and unusable.

After a time, the chemical agents begin to separate and seep through the outer casing of the shells and the metal corrodes. The problem has been to find a way of safely destroying obsolete chemical weapons. They can not be blown up like missiles. This is why the Kremlin has been forced to build a special destruction plant.

Second, the Soviet Union wants chemical weapons to be banned from the battlefield because it knows that, whatever it could deploy against the West, NATO would be able to produce overwhelming retaliation. Britain destroyed its chemical weapons in the 1950s, but the huge chemical industrial infrastructure in the



Superpower accord: Mr George Shultz, left, the US Secretary of State, with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Shevardnadze, after signing an accord at the Soviet Embassy in Paris yesterday to co-operate on scientific study and drug trafficking curbs.

UK could be converted to produce nerve agents for warfare in just three days, according to sources yesterday. It would merely be a case of changing the chemical mix.

Third, Moscow's key problem, as far as chemical weapons are concerned, is the size of its Army. Unlike a small professional force that is highly trained, like the British Army, Soviet troops do not have the expertise to fight in a

chemical environment. According to Western intelligence sources, the Soviet Army has not carried out an offensive chemical weapons exercise since 1978. The general staff does not even have a "chemical fire plan" — a written strategy for launching chemical weapons. It has a nuclear fire plan which includes chemical weapons and a conventional fire plan.

The military leadership re-

lies more on tactical nuclear than chemical weapons, which in the past were viewed as the poor man's atomic arms. In the mind of the Soviet general staff, the chemical weapon blurs the distinction between conventional and nuclear war.

The Kremlin's "chemical troops", as they are called, are purely defensive. They do not practise firing chemically-armed shells — that is the role of the Soviet artillery. The

chemical troops are involved in decontamination and reconnaissance. Moscow announced in 1987 that it held 50,000 tonnes of chemical weapons.

Nato governments dispute this figure and say the true amount is more like 300,000 tonnes. But the Kremlin admits that the 50,000 tonnes consisted only of the toxic agents, and did not include hardware — the shell casings.

Libya expels newsmen after visit backfires

From Nicholas Beeson
Tripoli

Scores of foreign journalists were ordered out of Libya yesterday after a weekend propaganda exercise to prove that Libya is not producing chemical weapons misfired badly.

More than 100 journalists were originally told that they were being expelled on Saturday night after a fleeing night-time visit to the Rabta chemical complex, 50 miles south-west of the capital. No explanation was given by the Libyans for the expulsion orders.

Efforts to show the Western visitors — the first to the plant — that the installation is a pharmaceuticals factory failed to disprove US allegations that it is a poison gas facility.

The journalists were taken to the complex at dusk on Saturday, ostensibly to prove that it is a pharmaceuticals factory. But the tour backfired for the Libyans when they refused to answer questions about the plant and reduced the inspection to a swift drive through the installation in darkness.

"We welcome you as pharmaceutical personnel and as administrators of a new medicine factory at Rabta," said Dr Ali Ibrahim, the nervous-looking factory director. He embarked on a lengthy account of Arab pharmaceuti-

cal history, but when asked questions was cut short by an unidentified colleague. Britain and the United States claim that the complex is destined to produce mustard gas and the lethal nerve agent, sarin.

Rabta is dominated by one large dark-grey factory and a smokestack and surrounded by a security wall. It is situated at the foot of a range of hills. The one road leading to it is guarded by armed soldiers at regular roadblocks who are backed up by hundreds of soldiers in camps.

On the arid plain stretching to the north at least one anti-aircraft missile battery, believed to be French-made, was visible, and empty earth emplacement suggested that other military vehicles and equipment had been stationed there recently.

Mr Idris Abdullah, the plant's maintenance director, said that the defences had been put into place over the past few weeks after threats by the US to destroy the factory.

On the hills above the complex at least two permanent radar stations were operating, suggesting that Washington was correct when it claimed that the area was ringed with a sophisticated air defence system and protected by Soviet missiles.

Since President Reagan said on December 23 that the US was

contemplating the use of military force to destroy the Rabta factory, hundreds of Libyan civilians, ranging from schoolchildren to nurses, have been taken there by bus and housed in tents to act as a human shield against a possible US strike.

One of the problems in identifying a poison gas factory is the difficulty in distinguishing between a military installation and civilian factories which use similar organo-phosphorus compounds in pesticides, pharmaceuticals and plastics.

The authorities at Rabta claim that apart from medicines, the plant also has plastics, automotive and agricultural projects. They said work began on the complex in 1982 and that the location had been chosen because of the ample supplies of fresh water, as opposed to the brackish water found nearer the coast.

There were no obvious signs of deadly chemicals at the plant, but US reports suggest that the Libyans recently removed stocks of thiodiglycol, which when mixed with sulphuric acid produces mustard gas.

One container outside the plant marked with the name of the giant West German electronics company, Siemens, had had other markings freshly painted out.

At an impromptu press conference a

few hours before the visit, the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, showed signs of wanting to defuse the tension caused by the latest threat posed by Washington.

"No one can reach an agreement with Libya except through civilized means, by direct negotiations, and the Bush Administration has to sit face to face with Libya to reach an end to the controversial questions," he said.

His remarks were interpreted as an attempt to offer Washington an olive branch and suggest that a compromise is possible with President-elect Bush, who will be sworn in on January 20.

Colonel Gaddafi's real fear is that President Reagan may attempt to launch a final military attack on his last day in office. The critical time will be on Wednesday when the special conference on chemical weapons in Paris ends.

"The US must acknowledge that the policy of force, threatening fleets and siege have failed and they have to negotiate with Libya directly," Colonel Gaddafi said. "They should give up arms and make the Mediterranean an area of peace."

Uncharacteristically, he made no reference to the downing of two Libyan MIG jets by two US Navy fighters on Wednesday and also failed to deliver any threats of revenge.

Minister cancels after air threat

By Andrew McEwen
and Christopher Mossey

Mr Sten Andersson, the Swedish Foreign Minister, yesterday cancelled a planned flight from Paris to Stockholm after renewed threats from Arab extremists against SAS, the Scandinavian airline.

And, in the aftermath of the Lockerbie disaster, it was disclosed that in the United States flight attendants had forced the cancellation of a United Air Lines Newark-to-Los Angeles flight last week when they heard of a sabotage threat shortly before passengers boarded.

Two weeks before the Lockerbie disaster a warning was given by an Arab living in Finland that a bomb would be placed on board a Pan Am aircraft in Frankfurt. Although Finnish police believe it was a hoax, the coincidence has led to greater vigilance.

In Stockholm, an SAS spokesman confirmed that security had been increased at the weekend as a result of warnings from the Swedish security police. He said "extreme care" had been recommended in Paris, where Mr Andersson had met Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State.

The motive for such a threat could be the important role Mr Andersson played in bringing about the resumption of contacts between Washington and the PLO last month. One theory is that the Pan Am jet was blown up by a PLO splinter group hoping to undercut the more moderate line adopted recently by Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman.

The incident in Newark came about when the US State Department informed the US Air Lines that the US Embassy in Norway had received threats against flights on January 3 from New York to Los Angeles. No specific flight was identified.

Ms Cindy Yeast, a spokeswoman for the Association of Flight Attendants, the crew's union, said that the cabin crew of one flight refused to fly because the airline did not adequately explain the threat.

The two developments reflected the fear that whatever group caused the Pan Am explosion may strike again. The slow progress of the Lockerbie investigation has also contributed to the tension. Despite the speculation that Iranian Revolutionary Guards placed the bomb, and that they may have received explosives from Libya, the investigators are not thought to have identified the culprits.

WORLD ROUNDUP

10 die as Shias resume fighting

Beirut (Reuters) — Rival Shia Muslim militias resumed their wars in west Beirut yesterday and 10 people were killed and 35 wounded in battles in south Lebanon.

Fighters from the pro-Syrian Amal and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) fired heavy machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades in the Bourj Abu Haidar and Nowairi areas of Muslim west Beirut, witnesses said. An Amal spokesman said that Hezbollah had started the fighting in the capital to take the pressure off its men in the south, who had been fighting Amal since dawn.

Militia sources in Sidon reported that both sides were using multiple rocket-launchers and heavy artillery in the battles in the hills of the Iqim al-Tufah area. Hezbollah fighters, backed by artillery, attacked Amal positions in the villages of Kfar Miki, Kfar Hata, Kfar Fila and Hassanieh, attempting to break out of besieged positions.

Armenia rebuilds

Moscow (AP) — One month to the day after Armenia's devastating earthquake, the foundation stone of a new apartment building was laid at the weekend in Leninakan, symbolizing the start of reconstruction in the republic's second-largest city.

Authorities have pledged to rebuild Leninakan and other Armenian towns and villages flattened in the earthquake on December 7, within two years. The disaster left an estimated 25,000 people dead and more than 500,000 people homeless.

Maldives promotion

Colombo — Mr Ahmed Mujithaba, the Minister of Shipping of the Maldives who was taken hostage by mercenaries trying to overthrow the Government, has been appointed the Minister of Tourism (Vijitha Yapa writes).

Mr Mujithaba, who was injured when rescued by Indian soldiers from the hostage ship, is back at work after receiving treatment in southern India. He said tourism was only a department until the Government upgraded it to a ministry this year. One resort owner said the move could be a result of publicity generated by the attempted coup.

Muslim rebel sought

Manila — Philippine troops yesterday searched for the Muslim leader of a military rebellion which left at least 17 people dead in the southern city of Zamboanga, including a general and a colonel (Humphrey Hawksley writes).

Mr Rizal Ali took the two officers hostage on Thursday in a military camp to which he was summoned as part of an investigation linked to murder and corruption charges. He escaped after heavy fighting on Saturday and was reported to have commandeered a Jeep yesterday morning, taking more hostages but later releasing them unharmed.

Emergency is lifted

Colombo — Sri Lanka will end a five-and-a-half-year state of emergency tomorrow, earlier than planned, a government source said yesterday. President Premadasa earlier said he would not extend the emergency, due to lapse on January 15, as security had improved. However three Sri Lankan soldiers and their driver were killed by Tamil Tigers on Saturday, while suspected People's Liberation Front (VVP) rebels killed a policeman and two government supporters.

Tie me casserole down

Sydney — The Australian Government is to lift a longstanding ban on the human consumption of kangaroo longanising (Christopher Morris writes). Mr Peter Collins, and crocodile, said yesterday: "We have kangaroos and crocodiles in abundance and there is no good reason why we should not eat such animals provided they are not in danger of extinction." An Animal Liberation spokesman said: "Most people will be repulsed at the thought."

European-style professionals for Bush Cabinet

With only one post left to fill, that of Secretary of Energy, President-elect George Bush's Cabinet is virtually complete. America has been impressed with the political breadth and formidable experience of the new Government.

To a greater degree than almost all his predecessors, the new President has selected a team of professionals: men — and two women — who have served in office before, who have established reputations for competence and who more closely resemble seasoned European Cabinet ministers than the usual motley selection of cronies, ideological soul-mates and forceful but politically inexperienced amateurs.

This is especially true of the men who will execute American security and foreign policy. Incoming American presidents often are at a big disadvantage in facing the world. They may, like President Carter, have scant experience of foreign affairs and betray this with initial naivety that exasperates allied leaders (Chancellor Helmut Schmidt could scarcely contain his impatience).

Or they may, like President Reagan, have firm convictions, but do not at first choose men able to translate these into coherent policy. This is reflected in his key appointments. Mr James Baker's last two jobs seem an almost ideal qualification to be Secretary of State. At the White House he learned about domestic pressures, the essential need to keep policy in tune with the mood of the country and the views on Capitol Hill.

At the Treasury he learned the lesson, so sharply outlined by the historian Paul Kennedy, that military might must not outpace a nation's economic strength. Foreign leaders had a chance to deal with

him and gauge his thinking in both offices.

General Brent Scowcroft is an even happier choice as National Security Adviser. Modest, conscientious, dutiful, a man with no political axe to grind, he perfectly embodies that blend of military understanding, academic acumen and governmental experience required of this difficult and ill-defined job.

He also begins with two enormous advantages: he has done the job before, under President Ford; and he was one of the three conceptual architects of the revamped National Security Council after the Iran-Contra scandal. It was he, along with Senator John Tower and former Secretary of State Edmund Mus-

kie, who insisted that the NSC must synthesize options, not execute policy.

He knows how to live with a headstrong Secretary of State — he served with Dr Henry Kissinger. In 1987 he pinpointed the chaos that results from a disengaged president and a Pentagon at loggerheads with the State Department.

Does his return signal the restoration of a Kissingerian foreign policy? Mr Bush's naming of Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, another Kissinger protégé, as the Number Two at the State Department has prompted speculation that Mr Ford's charismatic Secretary will re-emerge as the eminence grise of the Bush Administration.

Such talk is wrong. Times have changed. Dr Kissinger himself acknowledges this: "Scowcroft is my friend, not my man," he said recently.

But ironically many of the foreign policy challenges of the Kissinger era have also returned. Improving East-West relations, a probable deterioration in US-European relations and a sudden new urgency in the Middle East all look uncannily like a rerun of the Nixon-Ford preoccupations. Despite an extraordinarily favourable world situation as Mr Bush takes office, senior officials here see

potential serious difficulties ahead.

The Bush Administration may seek a breathing space in the headlong new relationship with Moscow. Mr Bush was markedly cooler during the election campaign in his view than Mr Reagan. General Scowcroft has publicly voiced caution, and circles in the new Administration suggest that arms control negotiations, especially on strategic weapons, must now wait until the US — and Nato — have sorted out their own military priorities. This will be one point of emerging differences with the European allies, which will see the US as stalling.

Another will be growing argument over credit for the Russians, with the US trying to rein in the Europeans. A third point of contention will be the perennial issue of burden-sharing, with Congress exacerbating American resentment. US suspicions of 1992 and "Fortress Europe" may develop into real tensions sooner than the Bush Administration or the European Community anticipates.

Differences with Europe over the Middle East will also complicate what the Bush people realize, reluctantly, must now be a priority issue.

How the new team handles all this depends partly on who



General Scowcroft: Has no political axe to grind.

Emperor's death sparks debate over future of the throne

Japan seeks an identity without Hirohito

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Emperor Hirohito has, over the past 63 years, been a living God, a 60-year-old divine symbol of a defeated but democratized post-war Japan, and a bridge that covered the bewildering gulf between the backward country it was and the world power it is today.

The key question is how the country will cope without him. At a time when Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, is trying to give the country a yet more prominent position internationally, the answer will say much about how a more confident Japan sees itself entering the twenty-first century. It will also shape how the world — especially Tokyo's edgy neighbours in Asia, who find it hard to forget that Japan was once their colonial master — sees the nation post-Hirohito.

The Emperor led his people through the most traumatic events in their history. But as long as his familiar, shuffling figure appeared twice yearly on the Imperial Palace balcony to receive his subjects' birthday and New Year wishes, the Japanese could forget to worry about how much the country had changed and about how well equipped it was to cope with the responsibilities and challenges that burdened superpowers.

That change, masked by Hirohito's longevity, has not always been easy to measure. It might have been harder elsewhere too if, say, Churchill were still in Number 10 or De Gaulle resident at the Elysée. To say that, unlike them, Hirohito held no executive power under Japan's US-written post-war Constitution, or that his portrait did not hang in Japan's embassies or stare from the nation's stamps, or that his speeches were stilted, belies his role as a focus from which the Japanese could take their bearings.

The crowds that flocked to the palace this weekend to offer their condolences hint at his standing in a country suddenly forced to rethink how it should behave towards its monarch.

Japan does not deal well with uncertainty. It likes to plan. The Emperor's longer-than-expected illness gave government ministers and bureaucrats a chance to organize their funeral drills and gave his subjects time to move from panic to preparing for a new era. The transition, emotional and logistical, will be smoother as a result — but not seamless.

Hirohito was nearly indicted as a war criminal — probably saved only by Gen-

Akihito, who has to steer his stuffy courtiers into a less-formal twenty-first century, be liberated or shackled by Japan's ambivalent attitude to his father? Perhaps both.

Emperor Akihito's own unstiffness encourages those who are glad to see the monarch take an even more withdrawn role.

But his modernity is making Japanese nationalists — and some of his sterner courtiers — chew their nails. They fret lest he will be too weak to fight off anti-monarchists' rush to bury the imperial ideal along with Hirohito.

Nationalists see Hirohito's death as a chance to end talk of shame about the war,

purists sniff at financing the rituals from the national purse.

They ask where the line will be drawn between state and religion if the Government pays. Anxious right-wingers say that, unless every Shinto accession ceremony is followed, Akihito will be only a "half-Emperor".

Meanwhile, the left has made a fuss about the imperial ceremonies without asking how many similar rituals in other countries are carried out to ancient religious recipes, not for reasons of religion but because of tradition.

The row will probably fizzle. The Japanese are more interested in watching television than in dressing-up in khaki or in rewriting the Constitution.

But Prime Ministers here, particularly the ever-cautious Mr Takeshita, are not gamblers by nature.

The Government is aware of the pitfalls and knows that the world is watching. The Emperor's prolonged illness gave the Administration time to think about the confusion, national mourning and international attention that lie ahead.

The Cabinet has been working out what kind of funeral to hold, how to receive visiting dignitaries, what protocol to follow. Seeking fresh diplomatic bearings, Japan has been anxious to receive condolences from the right people. Crucially, for a country obsessed about what others think of it, what will the world say about it all?

The challenges are no different from those that face other governments and monarchies at such times. How Japan meets them over the next few weeks will set the mood for the new Emperor's reign and say much about the maturity of the world's newest superpower.



A mother and daughter at a department store in Ginza paying their respects to Emperor Hirohito in front of a portrait decorated by chrysanthemums, the imperial emblem.

Indian general on spy charges

Delhi (Reuters) — Indian police have arrested retired Lieutenant-General Nirmal Puri on charges of selling defence secrets to foreign powers, the United News of India said.

It quoted an official of the Central Bureau of Investigation as saying the arrest was a "important breakthrough" in cracking a spy ring he alleged was run by General Puri and Mr Vinod Khanna, an arms dealer who was arrested last year on similar charges. No indication was given of which foreign nations were alleged to have received secrets from them.

Rebel killed

San José, Costa Rica (AP) — Manuel Adán Rengama, a commander of Nicaraguan rebel forces, has been assassinated in Honduras by order of the Sandinistas, a Nicaraguan resistance official said.

Heroic honour

Bucharest (Reuters) — Mrs Elena Ceausescu, wife of the Romanian leader and a prominent member of the Politburo, was declared a national heroine on her 70th birthday.

Drugs haul

Kuwait (AFP) — Kuwaiti border police seized 1.5 million hallucinogenic tablets in 1988 as well as other illegal drugs, including alcohol and hashish.

Price rises

Budapest (Reuters) — Hungary has announced a range of big price rises to ease its large budget deficit, despite warnings from trade unions that such increases would be unacceptable.

Asylum bid

Brindisi, Italy (AP) — The captain of an Albanian boat fishing off the Italian coast locked up his crew, sailed back to Albania to pick up eight other people and then sailed again to Italy in a bid to obtain political asylum.

Big clean-up

Sydney — Some 60,000 citizens have helped clean up Sydney Harbour by removing more than 30,000 tons of debris, including discarded syringes and even a corpse.

Peru austerity

Lima (AP) — The Peruvian Government has devalued its currency 28.5 per cent and made other austerity adjustments in a programme aimed at boosting exports and controlling inflation.

World's noisiest city turns down the volume and the lights

From Our Own Correspondent Tokyo

Japan woke yesterday to its first rain in six weeks, the start of a fresh era under Emperor Akihito, its new monarch, and some doubts about how it should behave for its second and final day of mourning for Emperor Hirohito, who died of cancer at dawn on Saturday.

It was the quietest day for years in what is probably the world's noisiest city — partly because it was Sunday, partly because it was cold and wet, and partly because the Emperor had died. Many Japanese, tired after their week-long new year holiday, stayed at home to read the papers and catch up with the news of an

historic weekend. The brash neon signs that make parts of Tokyo look like a fairground were turned off. The city looked as if it had been hit by a power failure.

Under the mask, discotheques thrived. Shops and restaurants stayed open for business. Some department stores issued black ties to staff and asked sales women to remove jewellery. Some hung curtains across their more colourful windows and most demanded restraint from the young uniformed girls who bow and screech a sugary "welcome" to entering shoppers.

The megaphones that Japanese use to announce everything from the price of apples on a market stall to the show times of a cinema's films were silent.

As Hirohito lay in a white silk kimono on

a white silk futon in his drawing room in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, 300,000 mourners, sheltering under a patchwork of umbrellas, gathered outside the palace to pay their respects, see what was going on and take snaps for the family album.

The national newspapers looked as fresh as newspapers can look if they have largely been written months in advance and held in limbo until the Emperor had run out of strength to fight the duodenal cancer that killed him.

Their television listings read like the index of an encyclopedia on Emperor Hirohito and the imperial family. Japan's television networks have agreed between themselves to halt the quiz shows and samurai soap operas that fill a normal

day's viewing. Instead the Japanese are being given three days of footage of their former Emperor — everything from his kindergarten art to interviews with his optician — punctuated by stretches of gloomy music. All advertising has been withdrawn.

The Japanese have been able to take only so much. Cinema yesterday reported longer than usual queues and video rental shops said business had swelled fivefold. Some department stores reported better than normal sales as people rushed to spend their fat end-of-year bonuses.

Few seemed keen to take up an offer by Japan Railways to refund tickets for those who had scrapped travel plans after the Emperor's death. Station platforms were

clogged, as usual, with skiers heading for the mountains. Weddings went ahead, even if the bride and groom had to pose for pictures within feet of Rising Sun flags flapping at half mast.

Crowds were down slightly at Tokyo Disneyland, but officials there blamed the rain. One woman from Osaka appeared to have made a special pilgrimage. Button-holed by a reporter, she said she had come to Disneyland to mark the first day of the new reign.

Some left-wingers, who hate everything about the imperial idea, planted firebombs and were arrested. Some militaristic-minded right-wingers, who hate everything about left-wingers, were asked by police to move along.

Macau Portuguese get passports with full EEC privileges

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

Macau today begins issuing burgundy-coloured European Community passports to its Portuguese nationals, reminding the world that they are entitled to better treatment in the United Kingdom than British nationals from Hong Kong, just 40 miles up the South China coast.

Holders of both the new-style documents and the old Portuguese passport enjoy complete freedom to live and work in Portugal and within a few years will be able to set up residence anywhere in the EEC, including Britain.

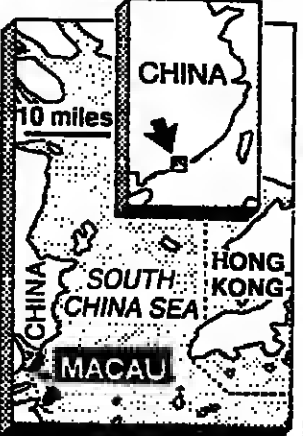
By contrast, people from Hong Kong can come to Britain freely only as tourists and require a work and residence permit. They need travel visas to visit other EEC nations.

A Portuguese-administered territory, Macau will be handed over to China in 1999, two years after Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. But its 100,000 Portuguese nationals, who make up a quarter of the population, are confident that they have somewhere to run to if Chinese rule proves to be uncomfortable heavy-handed.

Just to be on the safe side, however, Macau businessmen have been flocking to the Passports and Identification Office to ask about the new EEC-style documents.

Because Macau granted full Portuguese citizenship to anyone born in the territory before October 3, 1981, 80 per cent of those entitled to the new passports are ethnic Chinese. Many see the EEC passport as an added, more visible sign their security is guaranteed.

But the people of Hong Kong are in no hurry to pick up their new "British National Overseas" (BNO) passports, in exchange for the existing British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC) documents. Since the BNO passport was introduced in July, 1987, in a blaze of publicity, only 46,000 have been issued, and 1.5 million BDTC documents re-



Hopes rise as Mujahidin continue peace meetings

From Anatol Lieven, Islamabad

Despite little concrete progress in talks here last week between Soviet and Afghan rebel representatives, the fact that they are still talking is considered hopeful.

Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister who is also Ambassador to Kabul, told journalists that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan must play a part in any future "broad-based government" and in the Shura, the interim Mujahidin consultative council which Moscow is prepared to accept in principle. He held the Mujahidin's refusal to talk to the Democratic Party responsible for any future bloodshed.

Although Mujahidin sources confirmed that this was the line taken by Mr Vorontsov in the talks, they said a senior Pakistani official had hinted that Soviet support for the Democratic Party was not absolute. An official of one of the radical Mujahidin parties said Moscow would get rid of

the Democratic Party government if a face-saving replacement could be found.

Mr Vorontsov echoed President Gorbachev's call for an international conference on Afghanistan, which Mujahidin radicals consider a recipe for the return of King Zahir Shah under the auspices of the United Nations.

Some radicals believe the Russians want to return to the situation under the King before the rise of the Communists and the coup by his cousin, Prince Muhammad Daud. The Soviet Union had good relations with Afghanistan's strong economic links, and dominated its foreign policy without the hazards of direct involvement.

While the Mujahidin parties reject a return to a 1960s status quo, which would mostly exclude them from power, they fear that the "moderate" parties might accept such a settlement, under pressure from foreign backers and to secure the King's

return. There also seemed to be fears in the radical camp that the Pakistani Government of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, might agree to this option to allow Afghan refugees to return home from Pakistan.

Iran is also being tempted towards an accord by the prospect of better relations with Moscow.

Despite disunity within the Mujahidin, eight Iran-based Shia resistance parties represented at last week's talks were agreed on most points with the Pakistan-based alliance.

Leaders of the two groups met yesterday in Peshawar to discuss whether to accept Mr Vorontsov's invitation to a third round of talks in the Soviet capital.

They also discussed participation by representatives of the Iran-based parties in the Shura, which the Mujahidin alliance plans to set up later this month, and whether to proceed simultaneously with direct elections to a full Shura.

India-Pakistan rapprochement Gandhi urges arms cuts

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

The Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, believes that India and Pakistan should work together for the reduction of conventional arms and forces.

Mr Gandhi, who was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Pakistan in 28 years, said an improved political climate and the easing of tension between the two countries would help to achieve this.

In an interview during his visit to Islamabad, Mr Gandhi said it would be easier for his Government to work with a democratic government in Pakistan.

He was optimistic that he would be able to work with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Miss Benazir Bhutto, to reduce tension and concentrate on real problems. "We have agreed to work together to remove suspicion and misgivings that have characterized our past relations," Mr Gandhi said.

Miss Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the for-

mer President of Pakistan, and Indira Gandhi, the mother of Rajiv Gandhi, were the signatories of the historic "Simla Agreement" between the two countries in 1972, according to which both were supposed to resolve their long-standing disputes through mutual discussion.

The agreement also resulted in the release of 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war by India.

After 16 years, the next generation of leaders signed an agreement on December 31 concerning non-aggression against each other's nuclear installations.

Mr Gandhi said a united and stable Pakistan was in India's interests. He refused charges by the Pakistan Government that it had lent support to the separatist movement in Pakistan's Sind Province.

On the question of Indian rejection of Pakistan's proposal for the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mr

Gandhi said India's opposition to the treaty was not related to "a consideration involving Pakistan".

"India is not prepared to sign the NPT because it is blatantly discriminatory," he said.

On the outcome of his recent China visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 34 years, Mr Gandhi said he found common ground with the Chinese leaders on their perceptions of international affairs and of the problems in developing countries.

"Everything that we could have expected of the visit was fulfilled," Mr Gandhi said.

He also disclosed that the two countries had achieved some progress on the border issue.

"We did not expect to have dramatic results on the border dispute."

"But we agreed to move ahead on something that would be reasonable and mutually acceptable," Mr Gandhi said in the interview.

Soviet troops honour dead and long for home

From Edward Gorman, Kabul

Aleksandr Miranenko has been dead for more than a year, but he has not been forgotten.

According to his friend Mr Vadim Posneykov, who was with him on the day that he died, Sergeant Miranenko, who was aged 20, gave his life saving two fellow members of the elite 103rd Guards Airborne Division.

They were on an operation in a village in Farkia in eastern Afghanistan, an area close to the Pakistan border where the Mujahidin guerrillas are well armed and well organized.

As Mr Posneykov tells it, Sergeant Miranenko and the two other paratroopers were cut off as guerrillas moved in from the hills to surround the village. The sergeant's successful defence allowed the two to escape leaving him stranded, wounded, and at the mercy of the Mujahidin.

Faced with capture or suicide, the sergeant chose the latter. "After he was wounded," said Mr Posneykov,

"he took a hand grenade and made a little explosion."

For his bravery, the sergeant was lavishly decorated, earning, among other awards, a rare posthumous Hero of the Soviet Union medal.

As is the custom in active Soviet regiments, Sergeant Miranenko's bed now serves as his memorial in the dormitory of the regimental barracks in the grounds of President Najibullah's palace. His light blue beret lies on his pillow and a purple sash is drawn across the starched white sheet. Above the bed, his portrait hangs next to a framed list of his decorations.

"This is our tradition," explained Mr Posneykov. "The sergeant is put down on the list of the great for all time."

The 150 or so men of these barracks now have the relatively risk-free but tedious job of guarding the embattled Afghan President, a task soon to be handed to the scruffy and ill-disciplined Afghan Army.

"There have been many changes in our Army since Mr Gorbachev

came to power," said Colonel Vadim Solovoyev. "Some people are very surprised we have perestroika and glasnost in the Army."

Perhaps the most surprised are the conscripts themselves. Despite the colonel's careful prompting many seemed simply too scared even to tell me their names, their ranks or the stories behind their decorations. One who did so was Sergeant Archipov from Volga. He said he was awarded the coveted Order of the Red Star after being wounded while clearing mines laid by the Mujahidin near the town of Gardiz last May.

The colonel commented: "There are a lot of mines which the Mujahidin put in the field near our posts. He is healthy and normal now but he's very shy and that is why he can't say whether he is proud."

The object of this exercise, it quickly became apparent, was to demonstrate what a reasonable and chummy bunch the Red Army and its officers have become in Mr Gorbachev's new age. The general

view in the West, that officers still treat conscripts as little more than animals or prisoners, was apparently not the case in this regiment.

Colonel Solovoyev made much of a recent New Year's Eve celebration for which the dormitories had been decorated with streamers and a tree. The soldiers, I was told, had organized "a little concert".

There had been, however, no vodka. "Since 1985 we have struggled against vodka after an order from the Supreme Soviet signed by Mr Gorbachev," the colonel said. "The Soviet military is in the vanguard of the struggle; we can't say that we have finished with the problem, but we can say from our hearts that we are not drunks. It is very delicate mission."

Another somewhat surprising absence in the barracks was pictures of women. "We suppose that for our young soldiers, it is not good to look at these naked women," he said.

The problem is rather imaginatively circumvented by a photograph album in each dormitory in

which pictures of girlfriends and wives are collected. "It is our duty to show the soldier that first of all he must serve, then he can think about his lovers and girlfriends," the colonel said.

Most fascinating was the "Lenin Room" where the conscripts take lessons in political theory, write letters home and compete in the so-called "Socialist Competition". The walls are covered from floor to ceiling with slogans and photographs depicting the Politburo, heroes of the Soviet Union, the achievements of the Army in the Great Patriotic War, and the history of the 103rd, showing its campaigns both in Europe between 1943 and 1945, and in Afghanistan over the past five years.

As for the withdrawal, the barracks could be cleared in 10 minutes if necessary. But the colonel reckoned it would take a little longer to hand it over to their Afghan colleagues when the orders, for which they have waited so long, finally come through.

هكذا من الأصل

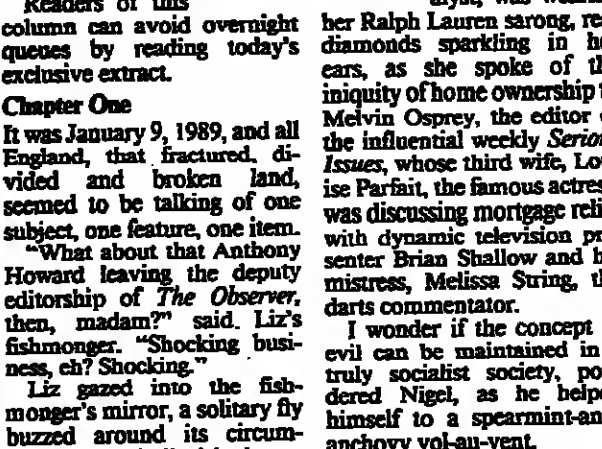
Light relief

Chatto & Windus is shortly to publish a series of polemical pamphlets called "Counter-Blasts". Among the most enticing must surely be the forthcoming pamphlet on *Property and Mortgage Tax Relief* by leading novelist Margaret Drabble.

Appliqué No 6 of her right cheek, preparing for the party.

Downstairs; the guests were already enjoying the avocado and wheaten dip, words flung between them like avaricious hausers.

Ernie Prickett the Kleinian art show was wearing



Kenneth Baker, the education secretary, last week told British colleges that they could expect little extra money from governments of any party, and that they had better look elsewhere for their cash.

He is much taken with the American way of doing things in higher education, particularly when it comes to fundraising, and Oxford University is where the American way has been taken up in earnest. Few Oxford graduates can be unaware that the university is looking for extra money, much of it from their pockets. They have read innumerable articles in the launch of the £200 million Campaign for Oxford, and received a begging letter from vice-chancellor Sir Patrick Neill. But as the director of the campaign might say: "They ain't seen nothing yet."

Dr Henry Drucker, an American and former political scientist, is planning the "mass solicitation" of Oxford alumni, beginning in April. The techniques that he will be using are so successful that most Ivy League universities are disappointed to raise less than \$150 million (about £83 million) a year.

This requires an intelligence network that rivals the CIA, and a marketing strategy which is the envy of many multinationals. The key, according to Terry Halcombe, director of development at Yale, is "keeping track of alumni, where they are and what they are doing."

The first stage is easy and likely to be directly copied by Oxford. Each edition of the alumni magazine at Yale, sent to graduates, has a section called "Class notes" by which the class secretary keeps track "informally of the rumours about graduates".

The research department then combs scores of magazines and newspapers in search of information that might reveal a graduate of hitherto unknown wealth.

"We pick a city," says Detroit, Halcombe says. "We invite groups of Yale alumni to Detroit who we feel would have some knowledge of others and gather them in a room about 40 to 50 of them."

"They are given a print-out of all the Yale alumni in the Detroit area and one on all their classmates, wherever they are in the world. The gathering then ranks potential donors according to how rich they are and therefore how much they might be expected to give. Someone who was ranked an AA could give \$5 million or more, an A rank would be someone with \$1 million, all the way down to a D — which means \$50,000 or less."

The last time such an operation was launched, in the early 1980s, Yale organized about 300 sessions, including two in London.

Drucker has not yet instituted such an un-British system of information gathering, but his staff have been sifting up an alumni database during the past year.


Keeping tabs on old boys and girls is one thing, but why should they give a penny once tracked down? Particularly since Oxford graduates do not feel they have been granted any favours in going to the university where they work places against stiff opposition.


David Fulton of Stanford, which has just launched a campaign for \$1.1 billion


says: "rugging at the main strings and playing the old college song does not go down so well as an effort to involve graduates in the university. They have to feel they are contributing in a way that really makes a difference."


Princeton — which ranks third in endowments with \$2.3 billion, behind Texas's \$2.8 billion (depending on the number of oil wells) and Harvard, with \$4.5 billion — receives about 80 per cent of its money from individual alumni. The vice-president in charge of development, Van Zandt Williams Jr, says they are encouraged to feel a strong identity with their class year and with Princeton. "Each class has a reunion attended


TARGETS FOR OXFORD FUNDRAISERS


 Sir John Sainsbury (chairman, Sainsburys; Worcester College) left; Sir Adrian Swire (chairman, John Swire; University

 Sir Tyndale Lewis (chairman, John Lewis; Christ Church); Lord Cowdrey (chairman, S. Pearson; Christ Church)

 Garry Weston (chairman, Associated British Foods; New); Duke of Buccleuch (Disability Association; Christ Church)

 Duke of Buccleuch (Disability Association; Christ Church)

 Duke of Buccleuch (Disability Association; Christ Church)



every five years and a major reunion every 25 years."

Princeton has 130 alumni associations and clubs all over the country, keeping former students in touch with their old school and helping in the selection of applicants.

Drucker may be able to enlist the help of senators William Bradley, Richard Lugar, David Boreas, Larry Pressler, Paul Sarbanes and the former senator J. William Fulbright, as well as governors Bill Clinton and Richard Celeste, and former House of Representatives speaker Carl Albert among the 8,000 Harvard graduates in America, but how is he going to turn what he describes as the sentimental attachment of Americans to the sacred ideal of the Oxford intellect" into hard cash?

Earlier this month, five former US Cabinet Secretaries, the owner of the most influential newspaper in the United States (*The Washington Post*), an Arab sheikh, a British knight, a handful of millionaires and former ambassadors — and a religious leader — gathered in Harvard University.

Officially, they were meeting to discuss how to raise their Alma Mater's international profile. But a source close to one delegate said after the meeting: "I think it must have been the last hurrah in fundraising."

While men such as former Cabinet Secretary Zbigniew Brzezinski (President Carter's National Security Adviser) and His Highness the Aga Khan, are unlikely to be impressed by big names on the committee, the less well-known members of the com-

head of Wang Laboratories and the richest man on America's West Coast, cannot fail to be moved at being invited to sit with the good, the great and the godly.

The American fundraisers' over-riding fear for the dreaming spires, one shared by the 45 per cent of students who do not support the campaign in Oxford, is that the British government will cut public funding to universities as private money comes in. Kenneth Baker has given his assurance that this will not happen, but Americans, who watched the passage of the Education Reform Act with close interest and were horrified by what they saw as attempts to limit academic freedom, remain cynical.

"Maggie has to come out with a promise, on the record, that she will not cut funding from the taxpayers," says Williams, at Princeton. "If she does not and the British government fails to improve tax incentives to donors, Oxford is going to have a real hard time raising the dough."

pernicious, jaded, dispirited, perhaps suicidal. The face which looked back at her had lost its nose, a bushy moustache would be detected above the lip. It was the fishmonger's face.

World life have been better, more good, gooder, if she had had a fishmonger rather than a best-selling novelist married to a leading biographer, wonders Liz.

Hadn't Kierkegaard - Sorrensen Kierkegaard - written something on the topic, the theme, the matter? She would probably never know.

The clouds parted ruthlessly as Liz stepped out on to the pavement, cruelly disgorging a burden of rain. "Hello, Liz; how's James?" It was Charles, who had married Suzie on the rebound from Claudia. Liz had never forgiven Charles's second wife, Karen, for what Rupert, their third son, had done to Jimina after he had left Claudia, who had not recovered from divorcing Frank after his all-too-public affair with Araminta, abandoning Heriot to a lifetime of loneliness with Geoffrey. Still, life was like that.

"The Falklands War was so horrible, so very horrible," said Charles, his face wracked with misery. "How long do you think it will last, Liz?"

"It finished seven years ago, Charles," said Liz. Time seems to mean nothing to Charles these days.

"That's super news," said Charles.

"My don't you come to a party tonight I'm giving with my current husband, Tom?" asked Liz. "It is on the theme of Property and Mortgage Tax Relief. Dress Casual."

Chapter Two

The tide of the country is flowing to the right, thought Liz, as that late evening, that early night, that post-duskish part of the day when the world seems to erupt in an iridescent, timeless yet volatile phase of tranquillity and harmony, she placed some Este Lauder Skin Softener

Chapter Three

"The wonderful thing, wotsit, thingamajig, about your parties, Liz," said Hubert Nash, five-time-carried theatre director, whose current production, an all-mime version of *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, had divided, separated, split the critics, "is that they are not so much parties as intense discussion groups. Now tell me, what do you think about the dependency of a have and have-not economy on the oppression leverage of mortgage interest rates?"

Outside, the tremulous roar of the moon seemed to cast its sonorous impact on the freshly mown lawn, the recently-dead grass lying twisted and mangled, ravaged for a reason it knew not, nor would ever know. In many ways, thought Liz, it echoed the mood of the nation.

"A handful of the wealthy is being subsidised" by this divisive government, while the poor are getting poorer, less well off, more out of pocket, said Frank, as he slipped his right hand into Liz's white bra, bought at a Harve Nichols sale in 1984.

The words of Liz's fishmonger, Bert, came back to her. "Shocking business, shocking."

Of course it was shocking, the squalor, the degradation, the misery that so many best-selling novelists felt in this nation, this country, this cluster of isles. Liz watched Frank's left hand plucked after his right hand in a vain attempt to release his little finger from a sharp piece of wire she should have had seen to months ago. Beneath the floor seemed to shake and tremble with disgust - Thatcherism. But it was on Jimina, stepping on some cashew nuts, falling flat on her face. Life was like that.

Tomorrow: How will interest rates react to the discovery that brilliant, sultry Joanne has decided to leave well-intentioned mortgages to Terence?

The Times Classic Cashmere Sweater

"This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by X per cent of the competitors at the regional final of the Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship." Perhaps it is this headmasterly tone, faintly reminiscent of the school prize giving, that leads readers to think that the Championship puzzles we republish in the paper are more difficult than the general run of daily puzzles. They are not meant to be.

Indeed, we usually start with an easy one, to allow newcomers to find their feet, and the variation in difficulty (or easiness, if you are one of the 30-minute brigade) of the other three is no more marked than in an average week's puzzles. The most difficult of last year's clues, for example, appeared not in a championship final but in a Saturday prize puzzle: "Would he show the red rag as par?" - Translator (in the Russian alphabet - given in the appendix to Chambers - the letters corresponding to our R, A and G, are P, A and R). So, 100, did 1988's most ingenious clue: "Kent gardens round centre of Sevenoaks" - Knew (Kew

**It is time to chew your pencil and
prepare for battle with the compilers**

The only difference, when compiling a championship puzzle, is that one has to guard against the ambiguous clue that is susceptible to more than one answer, or the word that can be spelled more than one way. Such a lapse will hardly affect the solver's enjoyment but can be crucial in a championship, where the competitors are penalized for any mistakes.

Contestants are told at the outset that if they have an answer that differs from the official solution but seems equally valid they can appeal to the Crossword Editor as referee. Having once experienced their devious ingenuity in exploiting this appeals procedure, one soon learns to snuffle through each puzzle like a truffle-hunter, rooting for ambiguities.

It is one thing to sit unassailable at home, thinking how to outwit the solver, and

quite another to face the enemy at close quarters. For example, one seldom escapes from the Glasgow final without a shocked lecture about the inequity of homophobia which that ignore the purity of Scots speech. "Turn", one is told, does not sound like "turn" to a Scotsman, nor is "source" anything like "sauc".

One must also be ready to explain precisely how every tactic works, and justify each word in it, to competitors who by some sixth sense are able to put in the correct answers without knowing why.


As the embattled representative of our 10 compilers, I sometimes feel a little like the recipient of the wartime order when mutiny threatened: "You tell them, Sergeant — I stutter."

Nevertheless, we look forward as willing Aunt Sallys to the 1989 championship, the 19th to be held, and the seventh under the sponsorship of Collins Dictionaries.

with the qualifying puzzle, which will appear on Thursday. This is a puzzle of ordinary standard, and has to be solved correctly by all who wish to compete. Because the entry for the London finals is so large, and even though the accommodation is slightly bigger this year, an eliminator puzzle is invariably necessary to reduce the number of qualifiers to manageable proportions. This puzzle, which is intentionally difficult, will appear on Thursday, February 16.

The six regional finals (with new venues for London) are: Leeds: Queens Hotel (capacity 300 competitors), Sunday, March 5; Glasgow: Stakis Grosvenor Hotel (150), Sunday, April 9; Birmingham: Grand Hotel (250), Sunday, April 30; Bristol: Hilton International (300), Sunday, May 14; London A: Saturday, July 1; and London B: Sunday, July 2. Wembley Hilton (325 each day). The national final will be held at the London Hilton, Park Lane, on September 3.

John Grant
Crossword Editor



Study in concentration

Lithograph winner
The winner of the Henry Moore exhibition draw - who wins a signed, original lithograph by Henry Moore entitled *Nativity* (limited edition number 20/50) - is Mr Simon Edwards of 61 Lockyer Estate, Kipling Street, London Bridge, London SE1 3EZ.



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TIMES DIARY CLEMENT FREUD

When the National Theatre on the South Bank became the Royal National Theatre late last year, could it be that the board of management considered it part of Her Majesty's patronage package to depict her on stage — and as a consequence instructed Mr Alan Bennett to write a play containing a part into which the Queen might step if times became hard? As times remained soft, Miss Prunella Scales took on the role of HMQ in *Single Spies* and carries all before her.

It must be very trying for the monarch to know that nightly, within trotting distance of Buckingham Palace, there is this brilliant half-hour scene of herself with Sir Anthony Blunt to which, because of one thing and another, she is unable to go. She misses an outstanding performance by her stand-in. Her loyal subjects show no such reluctance and when you ring the box office and ask for seats, there is small likelihood of tickets being available in the v. near future.

Persist, for it is well worth waiting for every moment of that inspired encounter enthralled the audience and if "Queen Beatrix shows us her Vermeer, one has a Vermeer so one was quite interested" may have been the most memorable remark, there are many more sparkling epithets which one — I mean I — wished I had conceived. What this will do for Alan Bennett's prospects to future Honours lists is another matter entirely.

My number one son flew to New York by British Airways (never mind about Dad's dispute, fly the flag), the ticket bought by his company. Because of a change of aircraft he and a whole batch of other business class passengers were downgraded to economy — with subsequent refunds made to the companies' travel agents, which amused them hardly at all. On the tarmac, before take-off, came the safety announcement: "In the unlikely event of having to land on water put your head between your legs."

Now Dominic, by virtue of his youth, fitness and athleticism, is one of the few people I know capable of putting his head between his legs, but he could not manage it in BA economy class because the seat in front got in the way. How does a plane get a certificate of airworthiness when those on board, thanks to the aircraft's configuration, are unable to abide by the safety instructions?

I do miss the headline "Bolton man crosses dog with cat". Throughout my life, every few years someone is credited with a successful mutant, calling the ensuing phenomenon cog or cat, extolling the virtues of a spaniel that purrs, or a Siamese cat which barks and snaps at intruders' ankles.

"Why did you want a dog?" asks the reporter.

"Well it's unique," comes the reply. And I suppose if the breed took off they would mate with one another, produce thoroughbred and rent the Albert Hall for their annual show.

They have done mutations with lemons and oranges, encompassing lines along the way. The answer is a lima arrived at after grafting branch members of the citrus family to each other until the new species was up and running. The fruit is the size of a small orange, coloured a little warmer than lemon yellow, the skin is thin and peels readily and the taste is unadulterated high-octane rubbish. Neither sweet nor tart, fairly dry and genuinely as dull as any fruit I have encountered.

Squeeze a lima and you obtain a juice that resembles what you get from an insufficiency of lemonade crystals dissolved in too much tap water. There are countries even within the EEC where you cannot find good British foods because they cannot afford foreign imports, why should louse up our balance of payments by the purchase of Spanish limes needs explanation.

BARRY FANTONI



"I had no idea his garden backed on to Areybury"

Asked by stewards to account for a significantly improved performance of an animal in their care, racing folk usually respond: "No one makes a bigger fool of a trainer than a racehorse." The seventh race at Warwick on Saturday was a two-mile handicap hurdle for horses at the very bottom of the racing ladder. As the field came to the last bend a five-year-old mare, ridden by a jockey yet to ride a winner under National Hunt rules, detached herself from her companions and, like Sebastian Coe in a parents' race at a convent, progressed in the course of one furlong from fourth place to leaving the other runners 20 lengths in her wake; she won by a street — despite some erratic steering over the last obstacles — at odds of 50-1.

"Did that surprise you?" I asked the trainer.

"Not really," he said.

"Did you back her?"

"No, I backed mine in the first race but she found the going too sticky."

Looking at the form, Winnie the Witch has had five outings and the best performance to date was a seven-length third of five finishers in a selling plate at Leicester last month. The trainer bought her after that seller — "for a syndicate who like to have a bit of fun on the racecourse, and they all backed her."

As one wager of £25 would have halved those 50-1 odds, I wonder whether it could be the Plymouth Brethren. Racing is an unpredictable game, but not usually quite as unpredictable as that.

David Brewerton sketches the background to the impending assault on GEC, the giant that lost its way; Dudley Fishburn (below) believes the shareholders should decide the outcome

Full circle for the takeover tycoon

"I think Arnold would like to go back to making Marconi radio sets", confided the then finance director of General Electric Company a couple of years ago. Soon, he may have the chance. GEC is under threat of takeover and if the assault succeeds, Arnold (now Lord) Weinstock will be out of a job.

Former employees of the dozens of companies which GEC acquired during the 1960s and 1970s will think the circle has at last been squared and the man who put tens of thousands out of work will get his final, just deserts.

He will fight to the end, but in the end, if his shareholders sell out to Sir John Cuckney, the man who saved Westland, he can hardly complain. Lord Weinstock built his company and his personal reputation by the takeover sword, and there would be a neat symmetry in GEC eventually dying by it.

Lord Weinstock's current predicament has even been triggered by his own latest piece of takeover activity, the £1.7 billion bid he is mounting jointly with Siemens of Germany for Plessey, the British electronics group.

Triggered, but not caused. The proposed takeover of GEC, announced on Saturday morning by the merchant bank Lazard Bros, is the result of what the big institutions of the City see as loss of direction, coupled with pressure from within the group for change at the top.

For most of the past decade, investors in GEC have seen their shares do significantly less well than those of the stock market as a whole. Even before "Black Monday" in October 1987, GEC shares had fallen for five years to keep pace even with inflation.

Lord Weinstock, the man who went to work for his father-in-law and ended up taking over his company, and who in 1967 and 1968 made two of the biggest takeover bids the world had seen, had failed to drive the group forward into the 1980s.

In the late 1960s he won a hostile bid battle for Associated Electrical Industries and followed this with the agreed takeover of English Electric. In two years he effectively restructured the British electrical industry, and was acclaimed by the City and Whitehall as he was feared by the trade unions.

His reputation, a relentless pursuit of cost savings and efficiencies, and further astute takeovers, sustained Weinstock through the 1970s. He hated spending money, and his attention to detail allowed GEC to build up a cash mountain that was standing at more than £1 billion by the early 1980s. The problems with its shareholders began when GEC failed to spend it.

It allowed the much smaller and newer electronics group, Racal, to walk away with Decca when the failing health of Decca's chairman, Ted Lewis, forced the company on to the auction block. It bowed to West German pressure and dropped a bid for AEG. Then, at the end of 1985, GEC bid for its long-standing electronics rival, Plessey.

Plessey was in trouble because of the effects of falling oil prices on its major customers in the Middle East and problems with profitability in telecommunications. But it still persuaded the Government to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which blocked it as being against the public interest.

Two years on, GEC is again

bidding for Plessey, arguing that the situation has changed because Plessey and GEC have already merged their telecommunications businesses and because Siemens of Europe has been brought into the act.

Despite the attempts to buy Plessey, the City has been impressed by GEC's recent record, and 18 months ago a group of financial institutions met to discuss what could be done to improve the value of GEC shares. Various schemes were put forward, including a change of management and even a consortium bid.

But the ideas lacked focus until the matter was given fresh impetus by the current bid for Plessey. Sir John Cuckney, a director of Lazard Bros, the bank defending Plessey, and a veteran of the unscrupulous of the Crown Agents and Westland affairs, put himself forward as the linchpin of a bid for GEC. The two bids will now run concurrently until the institutions — most of whom have shares in both companies — decide which to back.

Sir John sees himself acting for the institutional shareholders.

He is chairman of Royal Insurance and of the huge venture capital company, 3i. Their backing will be crucial to the attitude of other institutions.

His idea is not to buy them out, but to offer them an alternative to GEC's present structure and corporate management. He has raised £3.5 billion through Barclays Bank to offer investors at least half and probably two-thirds of the current value of the shares in hard cash.

But existing investors will also acquire shares in Sir John's company, Metson Limited, so they will share in any benefits which might flow from the restructuring.

One key element is still Plessey, which will buy GEC's half share in the joint telecommunications business. Other parts of the group will be sold, merged or offered to their existing management, some of whom are said to be so disenchanted with attitudes at the corporate centre that they are known as GEC's "freedom fighters".

The other key element is the attitude of the Government. The bid is likely to expose again the deep division within the Conser-

vative Party over merger and competition policy.

On the one hand, there are the traditional Tories who feel that mergers involving the acquisition of national assets by overseas buyers — highlighted by Nestlé's recent takeover of Rowntree — should be thoroughly investigated before they are allowed. On the other are those who adhere to the policy laid down by Norman Tebbit, when he was Trade Secretary, that the only factor of importance is whether competition will be reduced.

The Cuckney camp believes a reference to the Monopolies Commission is a distinct possibility. But what is absolutely certain is that the appearance in the bidding consortium of names from France and the United States will trigger a political debate on the ownership of industry unequalled in its ferocity since the Westland affair claimed the cabinet seats of two ministers.

Cuckney got his way then. He may do so again.

David Brewerton
Executive editor, finance

Let the market fight it out

The takeover bid by a Plessey-led consortium for GEC, or by GEC for Plessey, will be as bitter and as public as it is large. For bogus arguments as to why one or the other is unfair, against the national interest, or commercially illogical, are already starting to fly. I list below five red herrings that are usually peddled in takeover bids. These are the ones to look out for, laugh at, and discard:

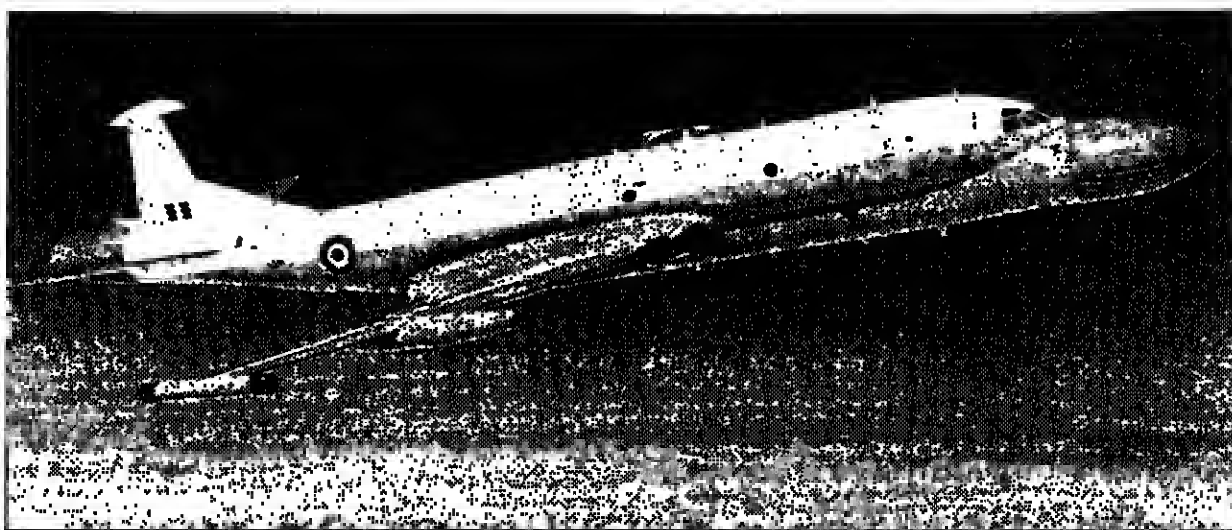
● First is the Damn Foreigner defence. This is heard almost every time a foreign company bids for a British one. And it is heard abroad, particularly in America, on each of those rather more frequent occasions that a British company mounts a takeover in someone else's patch.

The Rowntree takeover did most to discredit this line of defence. Remember how horrid Swiss Nestlé was going to carry off a bit of our English heritage? Then someone pointed out that Nestlé was already a bigger company in Britain and gave more jobs to Englishmen than Rowntree itself.

The Damn Foreigner defence would be especially hypocritical and nonsensical if used by either side of the GEC-Plessey imbroglio. GEC, after all, mounted its bid for Plessey with that foreigner Siemens on its side; Plessey's allies, in retaliation, contain a list of equally distinguished foreigners.

But does any Briton working at IBM or Ford feel a foreign wage slave? Do they go to work in the morning with a sense of guilt that their contribution to the British economy is somehow less than if they clocked in at ICL or Rover? I was recently on the North Slope of Alaska, where the principal oil producer is BP. An oil rigger I spoke to had no idea that BP might be British Petroleum. He was damned, he said, if he was working for a Liney company. And, of course, he was 100 per cent wrong. At the time, more than 30 per cent of BP was in Kuwait or other foreign ownership.

● According to Bogus Argument No 2, it is all stock market opportunism. This one always goes down well because we all love to hate the City. Played well, this red herring brings in speculators undoing the work of long-term investment plans and years of careful research sacrificed to short-term interests. Non-



The Nimrod: a compelling argument for Britain's defence industry to take a wider international view

sense piled upon nonsense. Don't forget that GEC itself was cobbled together less than 20 years ago by a series of takeovers.

A stock market does nothing more nor less than value a company; no different in principle, though usually more efficient in practice, from an estate agent valuing a house. To blame the stock market, or suggest that it has the ability to act as an independent player in takeover bids, is nonsense. The stock market doesn't act, it reacts.

The owners of GEC or Plessey shares, who will decide the fate of either bid, will, of course, mostly be the pension funds. So while either side may conjure up the "City slicker" as their public enemy, think instead of the pensioner whose funds are really at stake. (There are a few City slickers and some banks have misbehaved in takeovers. Britain's slow system of justice has not yet put the wrong doors behind bars.)

● Next we come to the bogus argument that the national interest is at stake. This argument takes note that both GEC and Plessey make equipment that is vital to the defence of the nation, equipping not chocolate soldiers, like Rowntree, but real ones. It is because the efficient and effective defence of the country is such a vital issue, quite rightly at the top of this

government's priorities, that it is proper to add to this argument, when it is deployed, not just the adjective "bogus" but "very" as well.

Britain's defences are far too important to be left to national suppliers alone. This has long been recognized with our nuclear defence systems, Polarix and Trident, and with the airborne early-warning system, which Britain quite properly bought from Boeing when GEC's Nimrod failed to come up to scratch.

Our armed forces need the best equipment in the world, not just the equipment a home-based supplier has on offer under near-monopoly conditions. If, in a couple of months, Plessey finds that it has Siemens as a part-owner or GEC discovers that among its new managers are a number of foreign defence contractors, that must be good omen for Britain's forces. It will be a guarantee that their equipment ranks with the world's best.

To see the hollowness of this "national interest" argument, consider two of Britain's recently privatized defence companies, Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace. Both are flourishing in the international marketplace. Both say their equipment is better, more reliable,

more modern, more certain of supply, because of overseas sales and overseas ownership in their equity.

British Aerospace believes this last point so strongly that it has been vigorously lobbying the Government to allow foreigners to buy more of its stock than the present artificial limit permits. More foreign shareholders, it says, would increase the company's capital base and its marketing clout, and allow it to expand faster, thus providing a better defence capability.

With 1992 (or, for that matter, any other future date) coming up, it is quite clear that Europe's defence procurement must break away from the pattern set at the end of the Second World War. The idea that each country's forces should be supplied only by its own defence companies is unsustainable and morally wrong. We have long had a common defence interest and a common strategy, but ask a West German soldier today to work an English radar system and he would be flummoxed. That must change for the sake of all our own safety.

● Bogus Argument No 4 concerns size. Wait for the arguments from GEC, when about to gobble up Plessey, that "Plessey is too small to survive in the capital-intensive business of radar production", or from the Plessey-led

consortium that "Europe's electronic companies must merge to become big enough to take on America's or Japan's".

Both arguments fail to hold water. Size, big or small, carries no secrets to commercial success. The greatest shake-up in the electronics industry of the past 15 years came from a garage in Palo Alto, California: the personal computer. Much of the best work for the Star Wars project is being done in small laboratories in the US desert states.

On the other hand, the long-term development of orthodox technologies — nuclear submarines, or electronic transmission equipment — probably does respond to the investment of multi-national, global resources. But in size itself, there is no corporate magic. Beware of the obfuscators who claim that there is.

● Proponents of the final bogus argument say, simply, that the politicians ought to do something. Both GEC and Plessey have already begun working over the wretched politicians with reasons why one bid or the other is "politically unacceptable".

It will not be long before the House of Commons is buzzing with early day motions, calls for emergency debates, heated questions, inspired leaks and all the healthy huffing and puffing of our democracy. Parliament is a system, woodrums to behold, magnificent to be part of, efficient at taking the national mood; but nothing in its history suggests that among its strengths is international corporate strategy.

There are only two legitimate political questions to be asked about these rival takeovers. Will the nation's safety be imperilled? Answer, no. Will competition — the choice available to the British consumer — be unacceptably narrowed? Answer, no. The idea of a minister or a parliamentary committee trying to second-guess the future of electrical engineering, or the development of European equity ownership patterns in the 1990s, defies hope, belief.

Stand back. Let the bids commence.

Dudley Fishburn
The author is Conservative MP for Kensington.

Commentary • MARTIN O'NEILL

Fabians in the front line

The major debate in the second stage of Labour's policy review got off to a good start at the weekend. The Fabian Society's new year conference at Ruskin College, Oxford, attracted a record number of participants to discuss defence and disarmament. It also saw the publication of the latest Fabian tract on the subject, *Working for Common Security*.

If the quality of debate at the conference and the usefulness of the pamphlet are anything to go by then it may just be possible for Labour to come through the defence review process relatively unscathed.

Labour's defence debate will go on in one form or another beyond the next party conference. There are three main problems: Labour is not seen as being "serious" about the subject; defence is a source of disunity; and many regard a non-nuclear policy as rendering Britain defenceless.

The grasp of issues and the cogency of the arguments laid out in the pamphlet show that the authors are deadly serious about defence. Indeed, when the party review has been completed in early summer the report will have to stand comparison with the Fabian document.

The significance of the part played by defence in the Labour defeat of 1983 and 1987 is difficult to assess. Certainly no single issue can be responsible for the scale of the Tory victories. The authors do not dwell on this since it would distract them from their purpose — "to set out a political framework through which the next Labour government can work towards the goal of common security".

This is not another of those attempts to find a compromise between the irreconcilables in the Labour defence debate. Indeed, there are repeated calls for a moratorium in this dispute. Rather it is an attempt to assess what new thinking is required by Britain and Nato to match that displayed by Reagan and Gorbachev.

In a concise critique of flexible response the authors quote Morton Halperin, the American analyst, "Nato doctrine is that we will fight with conventional weapons until we are losing, then we will fight with tactical weapons until we are losing, and then we will blow up the world."

They also pay in aid the authors of the original doctrine, Denis Healey and Robert McNamara, who no longer subscribe to the validity of escalation theory. For good measure they throw in a reference to the report of the British Atlantic Committee, co-authored by Sir Frank Cooper, formerly permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, which dismissed the theory "as impractical nonsense".

A reduction in conventional capacity on both sides of the inner German border would largely eliminate the need for scrapping of short-range nuclear weapons in Europe and the adoption by Nato of the no-first-use doctrine. This in turn would establish the trust on which minimal deterrence could be established.

The Fabians recognize that as long as "Nato leaders are prisoners of old dogma" there is a considerable way to go. It is to

the Labour Party that they look for a lead. They are quick to point out that they are not seeking "to jettison the strategy of non-nuclear defence". They argue, however, that "the task of reviewing policy will be easier if a ceasefire is declared in the trench warfare between the unilateralists and the multilateralists."

They recognize that Britain will have at least one of the Trident submarines available for preliminary trialing by 1991. The savings from the cancellation of the programme will be severely limited by then and that scope for alternative expenditure on conventional weapons, or even on social provisions, will have been reduced to under £2 billion spread over seven years.

Membership of Nato is not an issue. Common cause should be made with the West German Social Democrats to establish a nuclear weapons-free corridor along the inner German border and to adopt a no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

This would be achieved by agreement within the alliance to secure a change of direction, and then by negotiations with the Warsaw Pact.

They also emphasize the importance of negotiations in securing the withdrawal of nuclear arms from the F1-11 bombers based in Britain. They stress that this must not be at the cost of their redeployment elsewhere in Europe or at the expense of other changes they seek in Nato strategy.

On the question of Trident and Polarix they are less certain of their approach. They wish to place these weapons in a "practical political framework". Two

options seem to attract them: either a second stage of strategic arms reduction talks or direct negotiations with the Soviet Union. To them it is inevitable that such options would require "flexibility in the timing and phasing of the withdrawal of our strategic weapons" and that care would have to be taken "to avoid juggling the elbows of the negotiators in Geneva".

They give no comfort to those who would retain a British deterrent at all costs since they stress that acceptance of multilateral or bilateral approaches "do not imply that possession of a strategic nuclear force is essential for the defence and security of Britain".

It is inevitable that in a short paper of this nature there will be some gaps and omissions. The authors, for example, do not address the problem of what we do with Polarix/Trident until we get rid of them. They have avoided a clear reassessment of the Soviet threat. That they have not been explicit about future British expenditure levels can be defended by their call for a comprehensive defence review. These omissions are of secondary importance compared to the wide sweep of the paper and the honest and frank way it deals with so many of the critical issues.

If Labour's defence review procedure is to have any credibility it must not only face up to the issues in the tract; it must also command such support that after the debates and the votes at conference, it will not be a source of further anarchic dissent. The author, MP for Clackmannan, is Labour spokesman on defence.

JAN 9 ON THIS DAY 1959



General de Gaulle was president of the provisional government of France from 1944 to 1946, when he resigned. From 1951 he kept aloof from politics, but in June 1958 he was called upon to form a government; six months later he was president, a position he occupied until 1969.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE TAKES FULL POWERS

From Our Own Correspondent
PARIS, Jan. 8

Almost exactly 13 years after he voluntarily abandoned the leadership of his country, General de Gaulle to-day became the first President of the Fifth Republic for a term of seven years. M. Coby, the retiring President, in his farewell speech observed that thus "the foremost among Frenchmen becomes the first man in France."

President de Gaulle's first political action was this afternoon to ask M. Michel Debré to form a Government.

No head of State under the Third or Fourth Republic ever assumed office with more power or more popular backing. Under the new constitution the President has wide authority in foreign affairs, defence, and Algerian affairs, and greatly increased powers in regard to the appointment of the Government and the dissolution of Parliament.

He is also the head of the French Community (the successor to the French Union), and in that capacity presides over the Executive Council of the Community, the members of which are the French Prime Minister and the heads of Governments of all the member States, i.e., most

of the former overseas territories in French Black Africa.

These powers are extensive enough, and they are going to be exercised by a man who has described himself as the "guide of France," a description amply justified by the results of the referendum on the constitution, formally announced to-day.

These gave him a majority of 79.25 per cent taking France and the overseas territories together, and the figure increased to well over 90 per cent in the French African territories other than Guinea and Niger. Thus there would seem to be justification also for the General's claim, made at his famous Press conference at the height of last year's crisis, that "I am a man who belongs to no one and belongs to everyone."

The ceremony of transfer of presidential authority from M. Coby to General de Gaulle took place in the *salle des fêtes* in the Elysée Palace this morning. General Catroux, the Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, placed the gold collar of the order round General de Gaulle's neck and said: "We recognize you as the guardian of our national order."

M. Coby said he was proud once more to pay tribute to General de Gaulle, round whom the people of France, superficially so divided, had rediscovered their profound unity. General de Gaulle, speaking as President for the first time, said: "In the majestic character of this ceremony the renovated institutions of the Republic and the new institutions of the Community enter into force." France had suffered more in the past half century than at any time in her history.

He emphasized the importance of the new links between France and the peoples of Africa, and said that the Algeria of tomorrow, pacified and transformed, would have a choice place in this structure, developing her own personality and closely linked with France.

هكذا من الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BIDDING FOR GEC

The putative consortium bid for the General Electric Company may be seen, in its immediate origin, as a daring counter-attack by the Clark family of Plessey against their long-standing senior rival Lord Weinstock. But it raises a series of issues vital to the future of Britain's most important industries.

The future of the British electrical and electronics industry as a whole is immediately at stake. Unlike any other British company in these industries, or most others, GEC combines the strength of a variety of important products linked by common technologies. The multi-national consortium bid would also be the first, on this scale, to bring the new techniques of very large bank-financed takeover bids from across the Atlantic.

The latest of these debt-financed bids, for the tobacco and foods conglomerate RJR Nabisco, was bigger than the £7 billion that might be required to make a serious assault on GEC. But, unlike the bid for GEC, it was of little significance, other than in its financing.

In the United States, there are many companies of GEC's size whose ownership and future structure are predominantly of interest only to shareholders and employees. There are some European companies to which similar considerations might apply but they are the exceptions. Most companies of the largest scale are of strategic importance to the nations in which they are based and, in many cases, to the industrial future of Europe as a whole.

Now that international banks have brought this technique across the Atlantic, governments will need to form their own response to what could otherwise quickly change the face of industry, almost entirely from a short-term financial perspective. This applies particularly in Britain, where markets are most open, the Government keen not to intervene unnecessarily and where large financial institutions generally do not see national industrial interests as part of their brief.

At the very least, any such takeover bid for GEC would need to be investigated straight away by the Monopolies Commission to

ascertain the detailed intentions of the consortium partners and the effects on the national interest. Indeed, one motive of Plessey may be to ensure that the £1.7 billion GEC/Siemens bid for itself is vetted by the authorities, as it should be.

That is not to say that the present shape of GEC should be regarded as sacrosanct. A distinction needs to be made between the GEC as a corporate entity and the need for the nation to have at least one powerful electrical and electronics group capable of staying up with the worldwide technical race.

At an industrial level, GEC has been well managed. It was lean and fit long before the term came into use and therefore survived the industrial earthquakes of 1981-83, when many other important industrial groups had to learn the lessons already applied at GEC. The electrical industry was safe in Lord Weinstock's hands.

GEC's exact form is not vital. It may be necessary to have a group strong in electronics and power generation. It is not vital that it should make wire, petrol pump machinery or built-in ovens. It is, however, necessary that there should be an electrical group of sufficient scale and breadth to support research and development — and to apply it — across a wide range of internationally traded goods.

As Lord Weinstock has recognized, neither GEC nor probably any other European company has been big enough to ensure long-term international survival in areas such as telecommunications, electronic medical equipment and power engineering. It may be, therefore, that the strategic role would be better protected by a merged European group — most obviously an Anglo-German combine.

The consortium's leader Sir John Cuckney may be able to persuade the government that he can offer such a solution. It would not be acceptable for the GEC to be broken up for purely short-term motives in a way that would simply bolster the international strength of overseas rivals at Britain's industrial expense.

DEATH OF THE EMPEROR

Over the months since Emperor Hirohito first lay mortally ill, the world has been introduced to a forgotten Japan. Out of the cities of bullet trains and robot-staffed factories has emerged an old imperial country in which deferential crowds gather in silence to pray for their Emperor, a country in which courtiers resume their time-honoured role as guardians of state secrets.

The curtain has now fallen on the life of the Emperor Hirohito. The lingering nature of his death will be a subject for discussion in the Occident for years to come. In the Orient, however, it seemed to confer on Hirohito some air of that immortality with which the Emperor of Japan was traditionally believed to be blessed. The throne has been enhanced.

In Japan, the death of the Emperor marks the formal end of one era and the start of another. The 60-year Showa era of Hirohito embraced two decades of militarist aggression, atomic destruction and the unique shame of occupation by a foreign power. Through the people's energies, aided by a far-sighted American peace settlement, Japan then attained in peace the maturity and recognition that it had failed to achieve by conquest.

Hirohito gave these events a continuity that may have been embarrassing. To many millions outside Japan, Hirohito will be remembered less for the dignified last years of his reign than for its first phase, when aggressive war was waged in his name and barbarous atrocities were committed.

To those people, the Emperor's passing will bring back painful memories. It will not be a cause for their mourning — and the pressure to stop a member of the Royal Family attending the funeral, though misguided, is understandable.

The ability to undergo traumatic change and absorb new influences without losing cultural identity has been one of the strongest features of Japanese society. Hirohito became the living symbol of this continuity.

He became an object of respectful affection, however, through the one truly decisive

moment of action for his people in his long life. In 1945 he made a casting vote for peace in a divided Cabinet, broadcast an order to his people to surrender, and touched the victorious General MacArthur's sense of nobility by asking that blame for the war be attached to himself rather than his people. He thereby helped keep a shocked people together when they might have taken a revolutionary turn.

To the Soviet leadership of the time, this was a disappointment. Stalin had agitated for the Emperor to be treated as a war criminal. His apparent hope was that Japan could be destabilized, easing the way for a Soviet conquest of Japanese-occupied Manchuria and the Kurile Islands and extending Soviet influence, if nothing more, to Japan itself. The US decision to retain Emperor Hirohito thwarted Soviet ambitions.

Within Japan, the continuity of Hirohito's person allowed Japanese families to share their war guilt. To some, that was the personal guilt of cruelty. To most ordinary people of the time, it was guilt by complicity. Hirohito's own role remains discreetly veiled. Even if he was guilty only by complicity, his was a failure to oppose evil by the only individual who might have succeeded.

Despite Hirohito's post-war renunciation of the legendary divinity of the imperial family, some aura of myth was bound to linger in his person. Now the Japanese must develop a new relationship with their Emperor that will provide a focus of national unity without awe.

Japan is the third great pillar of Western democracy. The dynamism and stability of the world's second biggest economy is vital for international prosperity and, most of all, for the peaceful development of Pacific Asia. Friends of the Japanese will therefore hope that they succeed in developing their own new kind of constitutional monarchy — one that can promote the new national goal of taking a greater outward-looking world role, rather than holding it back.

This is an abridged version of the leading article from later editions on Saturday.

LIGHT AT NIGHT

Recent research has demonstrated what was obvious to common sense already, that a systematic improvement in street lighting can bring about a substantial reduction in street crime. It has an equal effect in reducing anxiety about crime, thereby liberating those many members of the population, particularly the elderly and most vulnerable, who feel imprisoned in their homes by fear of the darkness outside and what might be lurking in it.

Scripture calls the devil the Prince of Darkness. Metaphors equating light with virtue and truth are as old as the hills. But in the modern age, it seems, such wisdom has to be rediscovered.

The new research, at a housing estate in Edmonton, north London, has shown that there is an inverse relationship between the amount of light and the amount of crime, in other words that one dim bulb every 50 yards is much less of a discouragement to nefarious nocturnal activity than a blaze of light in all directions. The people of this housing estate are entitled to feel that anything so plain as daylight hardly needed to be proved.

The research was paid for by Thorn Electrical and conducted by Middlesex Centre for Criminology at Middlesex Polytechnic, both of whom may well also have felt that they were engaged in a somewhat unnecessary demonstration. But the justification of their efforts can be found in the pedantry of the official response.

The Government says it will "look very carefully" at this research — with its lights on, one hopes — but seems to think further experiments, perhaps taking another two years, would be a good idea. There will certainly need to be some knocking of heads together between

the Home Office, responsible for crime prevention, and the Department of the Environment, responsible for local authority finance.

Some benefits can be achieved simply by moving lights to reduce shadow and cover the street area more efficiently. These measures were illustrated in a video that the department has made to show local authorities how to improve lighting within existing budgets.

But better street lighting will also cost more. It is more expensive to leave lights on all night than to switch them off in the small hours. It is expensive to upgrade existing lighting equipment to emit more power.

For some time a group of MPs has been pressing the Government to take street lighting more seriously. In talking to the Home Office they will have been preaching to the converted. They have been seeking a substantial public investment running to millions of pounds.

Issues like this can often fall between two departmental stools. If better street lighting is linked to the Government's programme for inner urban regeneration, it is in danger of falling between more stools than two, given how many departments have a stake in that.

The Government is rightly determined to raise the level of public alertness concerning crime prevention, but most of its efforts so far have been concentrated on household security. The security of the streets at night is no less serious.

It would be to the Government's credit if it were to take the Edmonton scheme as a model and standard rather than as an interesting experiment needing to be studied at leisure. It would make a difference to the lives of millions of people.

'Eye for an eye' and terrorism

From Mr Michael A. Clark
Sir, Your leading article, "Eyes for eyes" (January 3), was the best piece of writing on the subject of standing up to terrorism that one could have wished to read.

As a Christian and generally a great supporter of Mrs Thatcher in the things she says, I was dismayed to hear her response to the "eye-for-an-eye" question in her television interview. I think she was caught by the presentation of the question by David Frost and one felt instantly that something was not right with her answer.

She certainly missed a wonderful opportunity to state what you, Sir, have now made so abundantly clear in your article.

I particularly support your mention of an "eye for an eye" being a trap for the unwary. It is, of course, wrong thinking by the clergy that has done much to set the trap on this whole question. But I thought the Prime Minister was aware of their mistaken belief.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL A. CLARK,
118 Woodlands Road,
Moseley, Birmingham 11,
January 4.

From Mr Patrick Ellis
Sir, Your leading article, "Eyes for eyes", prompts me to raise three questions which do not appear to have been addressed by you or by Mrs Thatcher. I would ask:

1. To what court of law should the criminals be brought, if and when apprehended?
2. What means of bringing them into the courts' jurisdiction are to be used, particularly if they are situated in territory not wholly hostile to terrorism?
3. What penalty is deemed appropriate for the crime?

In your leader of December 30 you wrote: "But governments must offer their citizens protection against being murdered", and I submit that this duty is one to which only tip service is being paid. As an example, an active member of the IRA who operated at the beginning of "the Troubles" can have served two periods of imprisonment for terrorist offences and be back on the streets in action now.

To me, a lifelong Conservative supporter, this does not signify any kind of commitment to the upholding of law and order which was promised, and the level of violent crime on the streets demonstrates the extent of the Government's failure.

I am sure that I am not alone in finding the complacency of ministers of the Government, which in some cases approximates to arrogance, the most dispiriting aspect of all.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK ELLIS,
127 Aldwick Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

From Mr Roche Bentley
Sir, Your editorial criticising Mrs Thatcher's rejection of the "eye-for-an-eye" philosophy may have missed the point of what she was saying and to whom.

I would wager that Mrs Thatcher would be privately delighted at the prospect of the complete destruction of any terrorist camp or bomb factory. In making the point against revenge attacks couldn't Mrs Thatcher have been subtly pre-empting any "request" from Washington for a strike against Middle East targets by American fighters and bombers based on British soil?

Yours faithfully,
ROCHE BENTLEY,
Whiteworth House,
Boxworth, Cambridgeshire.

Flight recorders

From Professor R. V. Jones, FRS
Sir, Mr Paul Heworth (December 30) may be interested to know that his suggestion that flight data recorders should have their own emergency power supplies to be switched on in case of catastrophic failure was certainly envisaged by the inventor of the original recorder, the late K. G. Dobson.

He was one of the ablest of my wartime colleagues, and in the 1950s he developed the "Midas" recorder and its analysing equipment (which at that stage used some 800 thermionic valves) almost single-handed. Its first major success was to show what had led to the crash of the BAC 1-11 prototype in 1963.

The precise clock for the recorder, incidentally, was designed and made by another wartime colleague of remarkable ability, R. A. Fell, who died on December 5. Both he and Dobson had been majors together in REME.

After various vicissitudes in its commercial development in Britain the recorder was taken up by Lockheed, in America, and it has long been a standard item of aircraft equipment. I do not know at which stage the very sensible provision of emergency power was dropped, if indeed it has been, but your readers may care to know that the valuable contribution to air safety made by flight data recorders stems from a British invention that was pressed to success against protracted resistance.

I never heard either Dobson or Fell refer to the recorder as a "black box", but one of their designs had a spherical casing to give maximum strength against crushing and they painted it orange to make it as conspicuous as possible after a crash — and this they named "the clockwork orange".

Yours faithfully,
R. V. JONES,
8 Queen's Terrace, Aberdeen 1,
January 5.

Seeking a balance on doctors' hours

From Dr Roger Williams
Sir, Your leader of January 4 is right in drawing attention to the need for consideration of junior doctors' hours within the overall scheme of hospital working, including that of the consultants, and I understand from your report today (later editions) that the Secretary of State for Health is to discuss the issue with BMA representatives on Monday.

One point not made in your leader was the possible effect on the junior doctors of the reduction in registrar posts for UK graduates which is part of the "Achieving a Balance" proposals initiated by the Government two years ago.

Some of the present registrar posts will then be made available to overseas doctors coming to this country for further training, but it is likely that there could well be an increased burden passing down to senior house officers and house officers, as well as up to consultants. Unfortunately, the other and much more important part of the "Achieving a Balance" proposals — to further increase the number of consultants — is being slow in implementation, particularly in the acute specialties.

What I was worried by in your leader, however, was the idea that consultants should in future be forced to choose between two quite separate careers — i.e., in the NHS or in the independent private hospitals. What surely is needed is development of the private sector within the NHS, so that consultants are effectively working whole-time in one place and a proper audit of the quality of hospital work in the two sectors becomes a practical proposition. Patients would also be able to move more easily from NHS to private and vice versa, according to their individual circumstances at different stages of life.

Until this goal is accepted as official policy, NHS private wings will lag behind independent private hospitals and different standards of care will prevail, according to the ability to pay. Yours faithfully,
ROGER WILLIAMS (Director, Liver Unit),
King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry,
Bessmer Road, SE5,
January 6.

From the President of the College of Anaesthetists

Sir, Over 30 years ago, trainees in Newcastle were forbidden to administer anaesthetics alone on the day after night duty. This sensible rule, almost unique then, is now widely acknowledged, but cannot be implemented everywhere.

Revolutionary rights

From the Chairman, William and Mary Tercentenary Trust
Sir, The Glorious Revolution has been the subject of comment in both your articles (December 27, 28) and two letters (January 6).

Surely, the important thing about it was that it probably prevented this country from having an English revolution, and, whatever may be said by certain factions, a more tolerant spirit was abroad from then on. We must also not forget the Bill of Rights, which constitutionally set this whole process in motion.

It is interesting to conjecture whether these rights will now be superseded by European sovereignty. I think many agree with the Prime Minister that what is wanted is the best of Europe commercially, while retaining our own rights in Parliament.

The year 1989 is the anniversary of Queen Mary's return to London, and the Convention, and we will be celebrating that. There is a wealth of new publications on the subject and I think your readers would find a study of this period of history well worth while. It changed our lives and gave us the Four Freedoms — regularly-meeting

Father's footsteps

From Sir Patrick Nairne
Sir, When my great-grandfather, the Reverend Dr James Nairne, of Pittenweem, in the presbytery of St Andrews, died in 1819 in the 44th year of his ministry, the obituary notice in the press reported:

Dr Nairne died the father of his presbytery, as his grandfather and father had done. The family have been favoured in providence by a long tract of public usefulness in the sacred function, the doctor's grandfather and father having been particular ministers in the same presbytery with himself, the one for 68 and the other for 53 years. The united incumbencies amount to 164 years, while for 116 successive years their names have stood in the presbytery roll.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK NAIRNE,
Yew Tree, Chilton,
Near Charlbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mr R. Kiddle
Sir, A study of the Copleston family's connection with the parish of Otford, in Devon, gives the following list of rectors:

John Bradford Copleston (1773-1800); Edward Copleston (1800-1804); John Gains Copleston (1804-1841); John Gay Copleston (1841-1880); John Henry Copleston (1880-1919); John Henry Herbert Copleston (1919-1935); Frederick Elford Copleston (1935-1954).

Edward and John Gains were sons of John Bradford. Frederick Elford was the great grandson of John Gains. A simple father-son line of four rectors spanned the 131 years from 1804 to 1935. My grandmother was a granddaughter of John Gains Copleston.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN KIDDLE,
Barracks Cottage, Gasthorpe,
Diss, Norfolk.

Art treasures on the move

From Mr B. C. Bloomfield
Sir, In answer to Dr Needham and his colleagues who signed the letter, "Moving London's eastern treasures" (January 4), I can say that the British Library's management committee considered the matter yesterday and the board will make a decision later this month. It is the library's intention to administer both Asian departments together, believing that this makes better sense for the readers, and the collections. This process began in 1982, when I was appointed keeper of the Oriental Collections as well as director of the India Office Library and records.

What I believe the signatories to the letter fail to recognise is that bringing together the Oriental Collections and the India Office Library and records will make the British Library's collections in the fields of South and South-east Asian studies the best in the world, and the collections in Middle Eastern and Far Eastern studies, by no means negligible, more conveniently available for study in one building. I believe that if the library does decide to go ahead with the move the benefits truly outweigh the disadvantages, without even taking account of any financial savings arising from the rationalisation of accommodation.

The library accepts that it is vitally important to maintain them in appropriate conditions and under proper conservation care. We recognise that damage may be caused by moving fragile and rare material, but we shall do all we can to avoid it. Material will continue to be available for consultation, provided prior notice is given. The care and attention given to such heritage material over past years and the ready availability of photographic copies should reassure readers that we intend to keep their interests to the fore.

We earnestly hope that cooperation in acquisition policies established over the past 10 years will survive any possible move to Orbit House, just as we hope it will survive the move to St Pancras, where the British Library confidently intends to reunite both departments in the new building in 1996.

Yours faithfully,
B. C. BLOOMFIELD (Director, Collection Development),
The British Library,
14 St. Pancras, W.C1,
January 6.

From Mr Dick Greenwood
Sir, Most NHS consultants are contracted for 10 3½-hour sessions a week. However, if working a one-in-four rota, including weekends, they are on duty an average of 68 hours a week, during which time they must be available and, in particular, responsible for the patients under their care.

One-in-three or one-in-two rotas, of course, push up the average. Whilst not particularly onerous in certain disciplines, this availability can be significant in the more acute specialties.

Consultants are being urged to increase their activity, whilst maintaining adequate standards of care, in the face of reduced resources and fewer supporting junior staff working shorter hours. Furthermore, to increased accountability, audit, and escalating litigation (and defence-society subscriptions) is now added the threatened loss of clinical autonomy to general practitioners.

By all means support our junior hospital colleagues, but please spare a thought for their seniors. Yours faithfully,
DICK GREENWOOD
(Consultant surgeon),
Glensfield General Hospital,
Glenby Road, Leicester.

ing Parliament; freedom of speech; independent judiciary; religious toleration. Surely this makes it a very important era of our history.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES TIDBURY, Chairman,
William and Mary Tercentenary Trust Ltd.,
20 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

From Dr John Penman
Sir, If anyone doubts whether the French Revolution was so on the whole beneficial let him spend the necessary few minutes studying a replica of a *lettre de cachet*.

The one I saw was remarkable for brevity, simplicity, and euphemism. It instructed M. A. (a prisoner) to receive M. B. (a prisoner) into his maison (i.e., prison), stating neither why or for how long. It was signed by the King of France and countersigned by a bishop.

Such prisoners simply disappeared, in many cases for ever. I understand that hundreds, or even thousands of *lettres de cachet* were issued each year. Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forest View, Chute,
Near Andover, Hampshire.

No bus pass

From Mr William South
Sir, In his excellent article (January 3) on London Transport's one-person-operated (OPO) buses, Jack Straw fails only in giving insufficient stress to the element of attack on basic human rights.

With the introduction of the double locking-doors of the OPO, one is now effectively trapped between stops unless (ignoring the sternly-worded notice) one opens manually the exit door, a difficult process in the face of peer pressure emanating from other more accepting customers.

Standing supinely imprisoned for long periods on an OPO bus as it stands stationary or moves at snail's pace past some well-known street corner (where hopping happily off an old Routemaster has been for most of us a lifetime's freedom) can only diminish the human spirit.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SOUTH,
26 Upper Phillimore Gardens, W8,
January 3.

War names

From Mr John Crisford
Sir, It has always seemed a pity to me that the American anti-ballistic missile defence system has become known as Star Wars. If a British equivalent is to be developed, could it not be known as Sky Shield?

Yours etc.
JOHN CRISFORD,
Nether Halse, Winsford,
Minchhead, Somerset.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Child abuse cases

From Lord Meston
Sir, Mr Philpot (December 31) urges reconsideration of the "child-assessment order", or "medical-assessment order", which was recommended by the report on the Kimberley Canine case, but which has been omitted from the Children Bill.

The Bill does provide for the new "child-protection order", replacing the "place-of-safety order". Those who argue that the Bill should also provide for child-assessment orders must deal with two serious points. First, that made in the Cleveland report (para. 16.15):

We do not see the need for a separate order to provide the ability to require the production of a child or the attendance of a child for medical examination. We are in favour of such powers, but consider they would more appropriately be contained within the emergency protection order. A power to make the order but to permit the child to remain at home on condition of being medically examined or being produced to the appropriate agency would be preferable to the creation of a wholly separate order with the potential for confusion.

Secondly, the Lord Chancellor, on the second reading of the Bill on December 6, suggested that the medical-assessment order might come to be seen as the safer option, the choice of which might be preferred by the local authority or the court, but which would not provide immediate protection for the child in a real emergency. Yours faithfully,
MESTON,
House of Lords,
January 3.

On the hook

From Mr Trevor Randall
Sir, I can offer Mr Hall (December 29) an example of one of the misuses of the normally trustworthy standard black plastic 17in. coat-hanger. Unknown to me, but doubtless known to my fellow consumers, it travelled with me attached to my coat belt (doe up at the back) from home in Reading via bus and InterCity 125 to my office in Paddington last January.

A seat provided by either transport undertaking would have helped me make the discovery sooner.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR RANDALL,
18 Somerton Gardens,
Radstock Lane, Earley,
Reading, Berkshire,
January 3.

From Miss J. M. Baird
Sir, A wire coat-hanger pulled out to form a square makes a passable quadrat for use in field studies. A survey of plant life may be carried out by throwing the quadrat at random. I have supplied a whole class of children with quadrats made from wire hangers for no cost.

Could I also suggest a name for a collection of wire hangers — "a jangle"? Yours faithfully,
JANET BAIRD,
28 St Helen's Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 8: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Wakefield preached the sermon.
Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn, to Mr Steven King, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr R. D. Greaves, the Headmaster.

Mr Christopher Biggs and Mr Graham Harrod had the honour of being received by The Queen this afternoon when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Royal Ascot

Her Majesty's Representative at Ascot wishes it to be known that the Royal Ascot Enclosure list will remain closed to new applicants until further notice. Only those who have been granted vouchers in the past may apply personally in writing to Her Majesty's Representative, The Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BP, at any time before April 30, stating the full names of those members of their family who require vouchers and their ages if under 16 and 25 years. In addition they may also apply for their children (16-25 years), who have not been granted Royal Ascot vouchers previously. They will require a sponsor who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for at least eight previous years. Vouchers, if granted, will be valid for the Friday only of the Royal Ascot and should be applied for before March 31.

In the enclosure ladies will wear formal day dress with a hat, which must cover the crown of the head, and gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Kortright, cricketer, Brentwood, Essex, 1871; Chaim Bialik, poet, Radv, Ukraine, 1873; John Watson, psychologist, Greenville, South Carolina, 1878; Karel Capek, writer, Male, Svatonovice, Czechoslovakia, 1890; Dame Gracie Fields, Rochdale, Lancs, 1898.

DEATHS: Napoleon III, emperor of the French, 1852-70; Chislehurst, Kent, 1873; Katherine Mansfield, writer, Fontainebleau, France, 1923; Karl Mannheim, sociologist, London, 1947.

Church news

Resignation
The Rev Canon Denis G Bellingham, Vicar, St Paul's Church, diocese of Exeter, to resign as Rural Dean of Lancaster, same diocese.

Nature notes

The rook
Rooks are visiting their rookeries, but not as yet taking much interest in their nests; they sit on the topmost twigs looking out over the fields. Great tits are singing regularly again; their song is usually a repeated double note, like "teacher teacher", but sometimes it is a triple, water-like note. Great tits are slightly larger than blue tits, but like them they have a distinctive habit, when landing on a branch or wall, of swivelling their body left and right for a rapid look around them. Siskins have come south and are feeding on the alder trees; they swing under the branches like this, but their musical chatter and twanging calls are quite different. In sheltered places, cow parsley leaves are now a foot high. Buttercup leaves are up and often six inches tall; little clusters of them are growing on old mole hills. New goosegrass leaves are like small, pale green spears; the new leaves of the cuckoo pint are dark green arrow-heads. Lesser celandine leaves are also abundant and a few exceptionally early yellow flowers have been reported.

DJM

Arthur Burrell

The hounds of Global Spring

Year of the Global Spring was the heading of the article written by Sir Anthony Parsons in *The Times* (29 Dec) on the prospect of the year ahead. Its opening paragraph could not have been expressed in clearer terms by his admission that he had predicted five years ago the changes that have recently occurred in the world scene "he would probably have been locked up in a lunatic asylum".

It was an impressive tribute to the unpredictability factor in human affairs which should never be forgotten. It depends upon retaining a belief that human nature can change.

There have been many occasions within living memory when, at the start of a new year, almost the only justification for the seasonal exchange of good wishes for peace and happiness in the future has been the intuitive sense of eternal hopefulness that ever springs within the human heart. Today, however, there is the growing awareness of the possibility of a long awaited shift away from the frustrations and follies which have led to so many impasses in national and ideological affairs.

A main contributory factor could be the increased awareness of those who live at the summit of public life of the need to accept a concern for humanity's welfare as a whole and the part their nations are meant to play in it. This includes the conservation and proper use of the resources of Creation regardless of any theory or belief as to its ultimate origin. It is unlikely that any programme in this direction will be successful without establishing amongst those who promote it some moral and even

spiritual common ground.
If the Global Spring is to come to fruition and, to use the telling phrase of the Duke of Edinburgh in his address last November at St George's Windsor, "the winter of death without hope of rebirth or regeneration" is to be averted, much more will be needed than the dispersal at the summit of the mists of misunderstanding. We live on the foothills of everyday existence all have a vital part in the creation of trust between each other and having as our recognized ideal the acceptance of absolute moral standards as normal in human relationships.

For this it is useful to recognize that the malaise which has been at the bottom of so many failures and frustrations and the cause of many deadlocks and much despair can be traced to the period between the two wars. The fact that the second so swiftly followed the first was the result of a failure to tackle the causes of conflict within the human psyche. These are largely bitterness, greed and fear which, when "writ large" and exploited within and between nations and races, are the source of war.

Sir Richard Livingstone, the distinguished classical scholar and President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, writing in the spiritual doldrums of the mid-nineteen thirties, pointed out how "among wide sections of the population the roots of religion and morals had been cut". He claimed that "the most serious weakness of our age is that it does not know its own mind and its greatest need is a clear philosophy of life". In his book *Greek Ideals and Modern Life* he illustrated a telling quotation from Pascal to illustrate

how easy it is for man to become a slave to the various "isms" which have done so much to destroy the fruit of civilization. "It is natural for the mind to believe and for the will to love; so that for want of true objects, they must attach themselves to false."

Herein lies the spur and directive for all who are engaged in the work of teaching, preaching, or, in many other ways, influencing public opinion, namely to provide the true objects which are worthy of our belief and devotion. So much is still to be learned from our Christian faith and the wisdom of the past. Each generation must find these truths for themselves in the light of their needs and the time is now ripe for a new revival of this kind of learning.

For us the picture language of Emerson's famous phrase that unless the wagon of civilization is hitched to a star its progress will fail and its wheels get stuck in the mud of human shortsightedness. This could achieve, to quote again the Duke of Edinburgh "the ultimate idiom... that could make life more difficult for future generations and ultimately condemn our species to extinction". These are strong words but they need to be said. At the same time they will remind us, as does the present season of Epiphany, that mankind has been given the kindly and creative light of the star which the wise men followed ourselves and at whose feet the gifts of our many inventions and achievements are to be laid.

The author is a retired priest of the diocese of Oxford

Birthdays today



Susanah York is 47 today

Major D.S. Allhusen, equestrian Olympic medalist, 75; Mr Justice Allott, 57; Mrs M.L.S. Bennett, former principal St

Hilda's College, Oxford, 76; Sir Rudolf Bing, former general manager, Metropolitan Opera, New York, 87; Mr Ken Brown, golfer, 32; Mr George Buchanan, poet, 85; Sir John Buckley, former chairman, Davy Corporation, 76; Mr Clive Dunn, actor, 67; Sir Michael Gifford, chief executive and managing director, Bank of England, 53; Admiral Sir Guy Grantham, 89; Father Benedict Green, theologian, 65; Mr Terry Hands, artistic director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 48; Mr David Holtrop, actor, 66; Mr L.J. Holliday, former chairman, John Laing Construction, 68; Mr Raymond Horrocks, former chairman, Austin Rover Group Holdings, 59; Sir John Innes, former governor-general, Malawi, 81; Mr Richard Nixon,

former President of the United States, 76; Mr Justice Ogilby, 55; Admiral Sir Frederick Parham, 88; Mr Ralph Tubbs, architect, 77; Mr Geoffrey Wray, racehorse trainer, 59; Miss Susanah York, actress, 47.

Party

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained children connected with the City and London boroughs at a fancy dress party at the Mansion House on Saturday.

Dinners

Order of St John
The Lords Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan, Dyfed and Powys and the Archbishop of Wales attended a

dinner held on Saturday at Cardiff Castle to mark the retirement of Lord Aberdare as Prior for Wales of the Order of St John. Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards, prior, presided. Lord Aberdare and Sir Cyneddf Traherne, sub-prior, also spoke. Lady Aberdare and members of the Priory Chapter and Priory staff were among the guests.

Medical Officers of Schools Association
Dr John H.D. Briscoe, President of the Medical Officers of Schools Association, presided at the annual dinner held at Guy's Hospital on Saturday. The Headmaster of Eton College and Mrs Eric Anderson, Dr and Mrs R.J. Rees and the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Mrs Stuart Carne were the guests of honour.

Forthcoming marriages

Lord Patrick Douglas-Hamilton and Miss C.F.M. Usher
The engagement is announced between Patrick, fourth son of Elizabeth, Duchess of Hamilton, of North Port, Lennoxlove, and the late Duke of Hamilton, and Cecilia, elder daughter of Captain T.G. Usher, of Crossford, Fife, and Mrs S.J. Usher, of London.

Mr J.G. Hills and Miss L.S.C. Makin
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Sir Graham Hills, of Beith, Ayrshire, and the late Brenda Hills, stepdaughter of Lady Hills, and Lucy, elder daughter of Geoffrey Makin, of Frochiam, Surrey, and the Reverend Valerie Makin, of Crows, Godalming, Surrey.

Mr P.R.C. Plunkett and Miss C.M. Hart
The engagement is announced between Piers, Robert Conyngham, son of the late Mr Simon Plunkett and of Mrs Richard Harden, of Hunters Hill Farm, Nether Siltan, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, and Cordelia, daughter of Mr Colin Hart, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, and of the Hon Mrs Patrick Penny, of 33 Wellington Square, London, SW3.

Mr D.W.K. Anderson and Miss M.E. Beeson
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Dr and Mrs W.E.K. Anderson, of Eton, and Margaret, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Diana Beeson, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr G. Babbington Smith and Miss B.J. Hancock
The engagement is announced between Graham, only son of Mr and Mrs John Babbington Smith, Angelsey, North Wales, and Beverly, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick A.S. Hancock, Camberley, Surrey.

Mr C.C. Porter and Miss L.C. Buckley
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Porter, of Forge Cottage, Warrington, Sussex, and Lucinda, daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Buckley, of Shinner Cottage, Fisher Lane, Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr J.T.C. Dobell and Miss S.C. Holmes
The engagement is announced between James, twin son of Mrs Jenny Dobell, of London, EC2, and Camilla, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Holmes, of a Court, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset.

Mr I.C. Goode and Miss A.E. Plaxton
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Wing Commander and Mrs G.E.F. Goode, of Bath, and Anne Elizabeth, daughter of Mr R. Plaxton and the late Mr A.N. Plaxton, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Captain E.C. Gordon Lennox and Miss K.E. Mays-Smith
The engagement is announced between Captain Edward Charles Gordon Lennox, Grenadier Guards, eldest son of Major General and Mrs Bernard Gordon Lennox, Hill House, Eversley, Hampshire, and Katharine Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Mays-Smith, Beadon House, Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr W.K. Hayes and Miss S.J. Todd-Young
The engagement is announced between William, Kinloch, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Hayes, of Scafold, Sussex, and Susan Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronnie Todd-Young, of Brencley, Kent.

Captain G.J.L. Holdom, RA and Miss D.M. Beck
The engagement is announced between Grant, youngest son of the late Mr Derek Holdom and of Mrs Joan Holdom, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Delia, younger daughter of Mr Peter Beck and the late Mrs Diana Beck, of Wimbledon.

Mr J.R. Tavill and Miss C.M. Laytons
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Commander and Mrs A.D. Tavill, of Furland, Cwrekerne, Somerset, and Catriona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Laytons, of Pigeon Bush Farm, Featherstone, Wairarapa, New Zealand.

Mr D.J. Howarth and Miss S.E. Clarkson
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mrs L.G. Howarth and the late Dr F.H. Howarth, of Solihull, West Midlands, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Clarkson, of Crocieli, Gwynedd.

Mr S.J. Isherwood and Miss J.M. Upton
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs J. Isherwood, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Upton, of Badleigh, Devon.

Mr P. King and Miss J.F. Garfield
The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tony King, of Lutterworth, Leicestershire, and Johanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Garfield, of Chilworth, Southampton.

Mr K.B. Macgown and Miss B.E. Wagon
The engagement is announced between Kenneth Bruce, son of Mr J. and the late Mrs M.G. Macgown, and stepson of Mr L. Macgown, of Tarwessan, British Columbia, Canada, and Bridget Ellen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs B.R.W. Wilson, of The White House, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire.

Mr W.J. Patterson and Miss D.G. Noble
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Mr William Patterson, and Mrs Jean Patterson, of Widenope, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Diana, youngest daughter of Mr James Noble, of Cambridge, and Mrs Patricia Noble, of Goldhurst Terrace, London NW6.

Mr R.S.H. Pelly and Miss R.M. Hamilton-Ely
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Pelly, of Farnham, Surrey, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr Peter Hamilton-Ely, of Fovant, Wiltshire, and Mrs Kenneth Child, of Fulham, London.

Mr R.J. Holgate and Miss J.L. Parrott
The engagement is announced between Robert John, only son of Mr and Mrs J.W.S. Holgate, of Mawman Smith, Cornwall, and Jenny Louise, only daughter of the Rev Canon and Mrs G.A. Parrott, of Wimbledon.

Mr T.M. Scott and Miss A.J.R. Sheel
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of the late Mr Michael Scott and of Mrs Patricia Scott, of Bosham, Sussex, and Juliet, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Sheel, of Winchester.

Mr C.J.C. Small and Miss C.J. Wynne-James
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of the late Mr Timothy Small and of Mrs Penelope Small, of Holland Park Avenue, London, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wynne-James, of The Langer Nuppen, Cradley, Malvern, Hereford and Worcester.

Mr P.B. Stone and Miss M.C. Todd
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter S.E. Stone, of Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, and Carolyn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian S. Todd, of Terrigal, New South Wales, Australia.

Mr P. Tregidgo and Miss B. Beich
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Pauline and Wally Tregidgo, of Sumbury, Middlesex, and Barbara, youngest daughter of A. Ross Beich, CBE, and the late Mr John Beich, of Greenwich.

Mr C.G.M. Wishart and Miss C.J. Nowak
The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs George Wishart, and Claire, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Stanislaw Nowak.

Mr S.C. Wood and Miss L.J. Reynolds
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Wood, of Oden, Halifax, and Lucy, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Reynolds, of Crakehall, North Yorkshire.

Marriages

Lord O'Brien of Louthbury and Mrs M. Taylor
A reception was held in Hall, at Christ Church and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr N. Boyd and Miss B.C. Somerset
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Denis, Sunning-in-the-Vale, Oxfordshire, of Mr Nicholas Boyd, eldest son of Mr Christopher Boyd, of London, and the late Mrs Boyd, to Miss Belinda Somerset, elder daughter of the Hon Geoffrey and Mrs Somerset, of Stamford-in-the-Vale. The Rev R.W.C. Jeffery officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alice and Zoe Ladbroke and Miss Lucy Somerset. Mr Keith Ladbroke was best man.

A reception was held at Lains Barn, Ardington, and the honeymoon will be spent in Kenya.

Mr J.H. Calder and Miss C.M. Harrington
A service of blessing was held on Saturday in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, after the marriage of Mr John Calder, of Ladbroke, Herefordshire, and of Mrs Peter Scotland, of Poleham, Somerset, to Miss Clara Harrington, younger daughter of General Sir Charles Calder, of Ladbroke, Herefordshire, and of Mrs Peter Scotland, of Poleham, Somerset. The Rev A. Denys Barrett officiated.

OBITUARY

EMPEROR HIROHITO

Spiritual symbol who presided over aggression, defeat and recovery



O would that men, too, were at peace!

Emperor Hirohito, who died on January 8 at the age of 87, was the 124th emperor of Japan and the longest-reigning head of by far the oldest royal dynasty in the world. In a millennium-long tradition, he was a symbol of the nation to a degree unknown in Europe, though personally remote from his people.

In his personal life, which is likely to remain obscure, he was a distinguished amateur marine biologist.

To many who first encountered Japan in its wars of imperial expansion, Hirohito embodied two decades of Japanese militarism that ended with the country's total defeat in 1945.

But in Japan, his long reign fulfilled the time-honoured role of Japanese emperors to embody the continuity of the nation. His own life reflected the ability of the Japanese people to suffer an unprecedented conquest and build unparalleled economic success from the ashes of defeat.

To many Japanese of his own generation, Hirohito was also a more than earthly sovereign, with authority (in theory at least) at one time little short of absolute under the Shinto teaching that he was the spiritual father of the whole nation and the direct descendant of the divine creator of heaven and earth.

Under the Meiji Constitution (1890-1945), the Emperor was sacred and inviolable. Something of this numinous aura still remained even after the formal renunciation of his divinity in 1946.

Yet he often seemed personally colourless, presiding equally unenthusiastically over aggression, recovery and fully-fledged modernisation. The controversy over his role in the Second World War was never resolved. Little attempt has been made in Japan to unravel the detailed truth — nor is Hirohito's death likely to change that.

The role expected of him in Japanese public life did not extend to full participation in political decision-making. Hirohito doubtless acquiesced in much that was done in his name by the Japanese military fighting abroad.

Only when the inner Cabinet (usually) found itself equally divided on whether to accept the Allies' Potsdam Declaration and thus end the war would the Emperor in 1945 interpose a decisive casting vote, as it were, for peace.

Hirohito's visit to General MacArthur, the Allied ruler of Japan, in which he accepted the personal blame for the events of war and urged that he and not the Japanese people be held responsible, helped keep the people together at a critical moment. It undoubtedly had a great influence on the thinking behind MacArthur's benign decisions, which created the conditions for the development of modern Japan.

Hirohito was born on April 29, 1901. At the age of eight he was sent to the Peers' School, under the charge of General Nogi, the hero of Port Arthur. He was educated in the military culture then coming to the fore.

Shortly after the accession of his father in 1912, Prince Hirohito was proclaimed Crown Prince. Two years later he received commissions in the Army and Navy.

In 1918 the Crown Prince's betrothal to Princess Nagako, daughter of General Prince Kuni, pleased the Japanese people, but broke with precedent. The princess was not a member of one of the five foremost families with the traditional right to marry into the Imperial line.

Because of the ill health of the Emperor Taisho, the Crown Prince was early called upon to officiate as his father's deputy on important State occasions. In March 1921, he went on an ambitious foreign tour, once more breaking all precedents; there was no previous record of either an Emperor of Japan or his heir leaving his own land.

In the battleship *Katori* he visited Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Port Said, Cairo, Malta and Gibraltar, and on May 8 arrived at Portsmouth. He was welcomed at Victoria Station by King George V, who made him an honorary Field Marshal in the British Army. He was also made a Knight of the Garter.

From England the Crown Prince went on to France, Belgium, Holland, and Italy. Because of his father's illness the tour was cut short, and in November he was constituted Regent. In December he was shot at by a student, but escaped unhurt.

On January 26, 1924, the Crown Prince's marriage was celebrated in Tokyo. On Christmas Day, 1926, the Emperor Taisho died, and on December 28 the new emperor announced that he had succeeded "to the Throne of a lineal accession unbroken for ages eternal".

In 1922, he had published a poem in *The Times*:
How vast is the boundless Main
Performed by the Morning Sun
Fresh as primeval Dawn
And still as the New-born Earth!

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The culmination of all these measures was the promulgation of the new constitution in November, 1946, by which the Emperor ceased to be "sacred and inviolable" and became the "symbol of the state and of the unity of the people".

Under the new dispensation, the Emperor was given no powers related to government. The Emperor was, however, regularly briefed by ministers on foreign and domestic affairs.

The Emperor conscientiously set about becoming a constitutional monarch after the European pattern. An effort was made to make him mingle with his people. But his manner was awkward and shy, and his new role did not sit easily on his shoulders; nor did the Japanese people appear to want it.

In the latter years of his life there seemed a tendency on the part of his entourage to revert to an earlier pattern and produce the Emperor less frequently in public, a move which gave rise to criticism in the press of resurrection of the "Chrysanthemum Curtain".

The Olympic Games of 1964 and the Expo '70 extravaganza brought the Emperor once more into the public eye. He is said to have enjoyed the round of dinners and receptions for foreign visitors.

A more deliberate attempt to present the Emperor to the world as a constitutional Head of State was the precedent-setting tour of Europe in 1971. At the age of 70, the Emperor, with Empress Nagako, flew by way of Anchorage, Alaska, where during a brief refuelling stop they met President and Mrs Nixon. This was the first time that an American President and a Japanese Emperor. The Emperor and Empress returned to Tokyo seventeen days later after visiting Denmark, Belgium, France, Britain, Holland, Switzerland and West Germany.

His association with the prewar regime ensured a cool, and sometimes hostile, reception to his historic visit in Britain.

A tree the Emperor planted in Kew Gardens was cut down. In Holland a bottle was thrown at his car. The reception was in general reserved. However the Emperor was reinstated as a Knight of the Garter, which, along with his honorary title of Field Marshal, had been stripped from him in 1942. He was also received into the Fellowship of the Royal Society in recognition of his work in marine biology.

The Emperor, for his part, seldom relaxed his rather stiff wooden manner. In Japan, popular reaction to the tour mingled with resentment at the slights to which the Emperor, as the representative of Japan, was considered to have been subjected. The tour was, however, courageous and probably went as well as could be expected.

Back in Tokyo, the Emperor set yet another precedent by granting an audience to a group of foreign journalists and answering their questions. He expressed regret for some of the things that had happened during the war, but insisted that he had acted throughout as a constitutional monarch.

A return state visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1975 pointed out the difference between the quiet aloofness which was still Hirohito's natural demeanour at home, and the Western sovereign's warm informality, which was enthusiastically received by a people unaccustomed to being permitted to come anything like so close to their own Emperor.

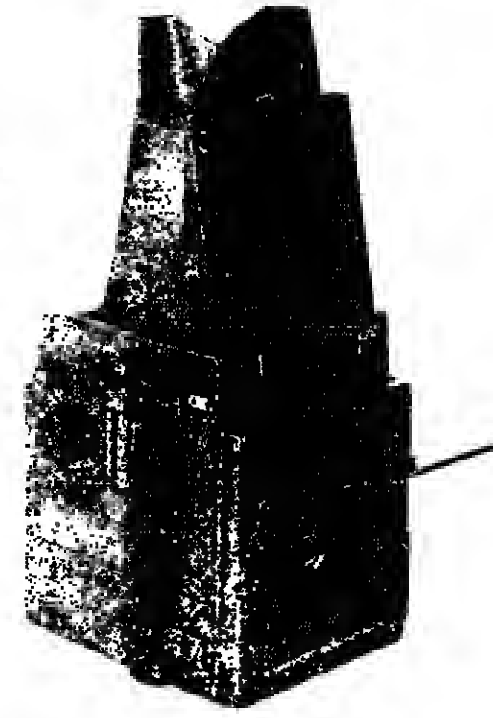
Hirohito realized he could never fulfil such an image of monarchy and is believed, on several occasions, to have expressed a desire to abdicate in favour of his son, Crown Prince Akihito. But he was prevailed upon to remain in order to give his heir a chance to prepare himself more fully for the burdens of a monarchy that risked growing indifference from the younger generation.

He would probably have preferred to retire into private life. Simplicity was indeed the guiding principle of his life, and to this extent, the new character of the monarchy, after the war, was probably much more in accordance with his personal tastes than his former exalted position.

His main interest in life was marine biology. He had contributed several distinguished treatises on the subject, and his research led him to make several important discoveries — including, for example, that of a hitherto new species of crab.

But even the revealed personality of Hirohito seemed to play out the age-old role of symbolizing the changing face of the nation. In youth, he embodied the outward-looking desire to learn that characterized the Meiji period. As a young emperor, his military education lent cool authority to military totalitarianism. For the last half of his life he epitomized the modest private family man working hard to good effect in his private laboratory. What lay behind the symbol remains a mystery.

Pick of the week at Christie's



ON THURSDAY, 12 January at 2.00 p.m., Christie's in South Kensington will be holding an auction of Cameras, Photographs and Related Material. A huge variety of objects will be offered for sale, from photographic literature to exotic glass slides. Amongst the cameras will be this rare Marion & Co. Ltd tropical reflex camera. Also of particular interest is a 1984 Nikon FA Gold Camera, with gold-plated trim and a lizard skin covered body. One of a limited edition, this camera will be sold in aid of the prospect hospice in Swindon.

For any further information on this and other sales in the next week, please telephone: (01) 581 7611.

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Putting names to faces

Like virginity in a sexual relationship, the anonymous face in cinema and television may take a starring role but its success is not often repeated. Soon people put a name to a face. Sometimes it is the character's, sometimes it is the actor's.

Tagging up as a trait for *Zulu* notwithstanding, Michael Caine was for most an unknown face when he starred in *The Ipcress File*. Wisely, he varied his roles so that the name people put to it became his own, rather than Harry Palmer's.

Caine spoke interestingly of the need for his brief role as the violent mob-boss in *Mona Lisa* to be played by a recognized star, in Granada's wry, ribbing programme to mark the 10th anniversary of *Hamlet* films. *The Movie Life of George (ITV)*. The George in question was, of course, that instantly recognizable portrayer of the 314th Jewish man in the kitchen in *Life of Brian*, George Harrison. "Some people are good at acting. I have enough trouble trying to pretend to be me," George said, with customary modesty.

Caine's appeal is that he is himself while acting (though he does that much better than many realize). Screen *Two's* powerful film, *Death of a Son* (BBC2) and *Agatha Christie's Poirot* (ITV) gave us actors who are almost too good for their careers' sake at losing themselves in their parts.

Once, Lynn Rodgrave's face may have instantly provoked calls of "Hey there, George girl!" but her remarkable portrayal of Pauline Williams, whose son's death through a drug overdose sparked her personal legal crusade against his pusher, was the more successful because she does not have the immediate star recognition of her sister, Vanessa.

What is so extraordinary about Mrs Williams' story is how an ordinary, uneducated woman learnt enough about drugs and the law to cause both the legal establishment and scientific experts to revise their opinions. It would have been completely inappropriate if the film, poignantly directed by Ross Devenish and written with taste and intelligence by Tony Marchant, had become like Meryl Streep's *Silkwood*, a vehicle for a star to show that she is so extraordinary she can almost be ordinary.

As character acting, David Suchet's Poirot was even more brilliant than Peter Ustinov's or Albert Finney's, but it lacked the comic tension between their Poirot and their real, very recognizable, characters. Many of those watching might not have been able to put Suchet's name to his face, let alone Blois, Frost, Bloom, or other of his great television portrayals. But surely he will now finally lose his virgin appeal.

Andrew Hislop

David Robinson discovers the story behind the first appearance, 75 years ago tomorrow, of Charlie Chaplin's Tramp

Entrance of a movie legend

In April, the centenary of the birth of Charles Chaplin will be celebrated with retrospectives, exhibitions and other appropriate manifestations across the world. Anticipating that, however, there is another date, so far unregarded, that deserves to be commemorated. Tomorrow, January 10, is the 75th anniversary of the very first appearance before an audience of Chaplin's Tramp — perhaps the most universal fictional figure ever created.

We can pin down this momentous event to the exact day, and even the hour, thanks to recent discoveries by a Swedish academic, Bo Berglund. Berglund has taken movie archaeology to new extremes: his researches into the early days of American cinema have even included contemporary weather reports and comparisons of rainfall statistics with the state of the puddles on the earth roads of the still-rural Hollywood of 1914, as seen in the films.

In 1913, Chaplin was touring the American vaudeville circuit with Fred Karno's sketch company, when he was offered a year's contract in work with Mack Sennett's Keystone Studios. He arrived in California at the end of 1913, and early in 1914 made his first picture, *Making a Living*. The character he played, a shifty and dubious dandy aspiring to be a newsman, was quite unlike the figure that was to make him famous.

The tramp costume was devised in the Keystone wardrobe room. Legend has it that Chaplin selected items from the costumes of his

fellow comics — for instance, "Fatty" Arbuckle's enormous trousers. Chaplin himself explained however that he worked on the simple principle of contrasts: the jacket too tight and the trousers too large; the wing collar, cravat, Derby hat and swagger cane suggesting aspirations to bourgeois respectability that are instantly belied by the enormous decaying boots.

The costume — and the character that began at once to develop out of it — were first seen on the screen in a five-minute film called *Kid Auto Races at Venice*. It was a throwaway piece — almost a newswreel — of a type which Keystone often made. They would depict a cameraman to film some interesting local event — a race meeting, a procession, a fire or a civic function — and send along one of the resident comics to provide foreground and enliven any dull moments.

On the afternoon of Saturday January 10, 1914, the Keystone crew went along to film a novel event at the beach resort of Venice — a race meeting for kid-decorators, ranging from soap boxes on wheels to more sophisticated pedal models. With the camera crew went Charlie Chaplin in his newly-invented tramp costume.

Chaplin's business in the film is built on a single joke: a cameraman is trying to film the races, but is driven crazy by the outrageous little tramp who keeps getting in front of the camera, preening, fooling and peering with innocent curiosity into the lens. To end the film he makes an appalling gri-



Enter a clown: Chaplin (left) stands before the crowd with, in the centre, one of the "boy racers" of Venice

mace directly into the camera. For years even the most dedicated Chaplin scholars have been vague about the date on which the film was shot. Mr Berglund is the first in all that time to take the elementary step of searching the local Venice papers for contemporary reports. Sure enough, he discovered advertisements for the event, scheduled for 2.30 in the afternoon (or it might have been

1.30: unfortunately, the newspapers differ on the point).

The papers subsequently reported the event with great pride, and total unconcern that they had witnessed one of the most historic moments in the history of the movies. When the film came out, the *Venice Daily Vanguard* reported: "Everyone in Venice, Ocean Park and Santa Monica were in the picture last night at the

Neptune Theatre when the 'Boys' Pushmobile Races' were being shown. Truly it was the most perfect and satisfactory picture of Venice and its people ever shown". Only as an afterthought they noted that Keystone's "Charlie Chapman" had been on hand.

Although *Kid Auto Races* was the first film with Chaplin's Tramp to be shown, it may not have been the first actually filmed.

Chaplin himself claimed that he wore the costume for the first time the previous week, for a more elaborate production, *Mabel's Strange Predicament*, which, presumably because its production took longer, only reached the screen after *Kid Auto Races*. The problem of precedence is an innocent controversy for Chaplin scholars in centenary year: a minutely argued article by Berglund himself appears in the forthcoming issue of the British Film Institute's magazine, *Sight and Sound*.

As Berglund points out, however, whichever film was made first, the first audience to see the tramp was the spectators who had gone to Venice Beach that afternoon to see the races, and saw him in the flesh. And since they themselves were also caught in the film, we can actually watch them in the moment of discovering the character who within a few months was to capture the imagination of most of the world.

At first the bystanders watch solemnly, bewildered, embarrassed, supposing that this is some real hobo or drunk who is getting in the cameraman's way. Gradually they catch on — the children first — and start to laugh, realizing that a second camera is filming the interloper as he interferes with an evidently empty camera. Are any of these racing youngsters still alive, one wonders? And did anyone guess that day that they were the first people in the world to set eyes upon one of the century's great legends?

Signs of talent Skilful vacuity

THEATRE

House of America
Battersea Arts Centre

Edward Thomas, author of this overheated drama, has written elsewhere of a difficulty that faces Welsh theatre outside Wales. Like black theatre, women's theatre, Irish theatre and, he could have added, gay theatre, it carries the burden of being expected to speak for its defined culture within a larger community.

Thomas avoids creating a state-of-the-nation piece by taking the extreme course available. As his South Wales family disintegrates beneath the hammer blows of incest, fratricide and open-cast mining, it ceases to be representative of any likely community. Eventually, so little happens to the mother, sons and daughter except what makes their troubles worse, that even as a family representing only itself the drama forfeits belief.

This is the more unfortunate because it begins well, first with a curious reminiscence by Mrs Lewis, addressed directly to the audience and spoken by Sharon Morgan under fierce top-lighting, as a compound of honesty and oddity. Her account of how her

absent husband disappeared for America — on the same day the cat Marlon stepped into the washing machine ("He was washed to death") — convey the sense of being just faintly askew from the way someone quite sane would tell it. Both writing and performance artfully suggest this.

The next few scenes carry the impetus forward, seeding details about the unfulfilled lives of her children: Sid (Russell Gomer), skint and pushing 30; Gwenny (Catherine Tregenna), too eager to collude with his Jack Kerouac fantasies; and Boyo, the eventual lone survivor, nimbly played by Richard Lynch.

Directed by the author for Y Cwmni (The Company), the cast take hold of their roles with conviction, darting about a black stage almost bare of furniture and giving exuberant reality to their party scene. But Thomas never shifts the focus beyond his intensely inward-looking plot. The only outside character is a labourer up on the hills (Wyndham Price), and even he digs up something of theirs with his bulldozer.

Good use of music, though, beaten out at the side of the stage on percussion. And an author to watch, certainly.

Jeremy Kingston

ROCK

Level 42
Wembley Arena

Level 42 has forged an unholly alliance of support. Revered for their expertise by "serious" aspirant musicians, who always vote Mark King to the top of the "Best Bassist" category in their magazine polls, and adored for their shopping mall soul melodies by a great mass of soft-core pop fans, the foundations of the band's success seem to be as unshakable as they are unlikely.

This, the opening night of six at Wembley, was one of the first shows to feature Level 42's new line-up, yet despite a 50 per cent personnel change, the effect on the band's music has been minimal. One should note that the original drummer, Phil Gould, who favoured an unusually tightly-tuned, skinnier sound, has been replaced by the beefier, more orthodox-sounding Gary Husband. His booming snare had a distinctly unappealing quality, especially on the slower "Leaving You Now".

The original guitarist Boon Gould (brother) has been replaced by Alan Murphy, formerly of Go West. Murphy's occasional quick-

silver soloing, done in the increasingly over-worked Allan Holdsworth tradition, was marginally more exciting than that of the departed Gould, but, like Gould, his overall contribution and on-stage presence was about as engaging as that of a block of wood. Plus ça change...

The essence of the show remained securely in the swift and dextrous hands of King and his partner, the singer and keyboardist Mike Lindup. Aided by four mini-spaceship-like conglomerations of lights, an early smattering of pyrotechnics and a pointless "flying" routine at the end, when the pair were hoisted above the stage on ropes, they ploughed through their hits with a polished predictability.

Their best numbers — "Running in the Family" and "Lessons in Love" — boasted jaunty choruses and a pleasing toe-tapping quality. But, like trinkets swathed in layer upon layer of ornate wrapping paper, the inconsequential nature of most of the songs did not justify the overbearing technical ingenuity expended on their playing. It was as if jazz/rock had met the Moleskine, with no message or creative substance to bridge the yawning chasm between.

David Sinclair



Secure in his dexterity: Mark King, bass guitarist who leads Level 42

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Radio rowdies

RADIO

When Radio 4 is next wondering how to enlarge its constituency among the under-30s, it might glance across at Radio 3's venture into The Works, make a few helpful notes and then quickly glance away again. This is — if I may be forgiven for employing in this context two words so hallowed by tradition — a kind of "music magazine", but you will agree that any comparisons with a former revered and respectable programme of that name end there.

Starting last Monday, it was on for an hour every evening last week and can henceforth be heard on Fridays. In the slot otherwise occupied by *Third Ear*, its presenter is new to me, David Owen Norris, pianist and teacher at the Royal Academy of Music, whose unimpeachably sober credentials give the unsuspecting listener no warning that he is a very chirpy chap indeed; and one who seems to me likely to irritate as many as (or far more than) he stimulates.

He is one of the reasons for glancing away rather hastily, before habituation takes the rough edge off some of his less endearing ways. These include a manner that often seems to have been borrowed direct from Radio 1 on a bad day, and a jockey relationship with his producer, studio technicians and continuity announcer, designed to create the impression that everything is rather lovingly improvised and chaotic — an impression which a style of production owing something to a mix of radio comedy and montage documentary serves to reinforce.

These add up to some more reasons for glancing away, but in between all the carry on, Owen Norris turns out to be quite an astute, sharp-witted and ironical sort of fellow and when they can attend to any one item for more than the permitted three minutes'

attention span, the programme's makers so far have delivered some engrossing sustained sequences — on Saturday music schools, for instance, or learning to compose. But even here, at its most sober, the whole undertaking lies a long way from the home life of our own dear Radio 3. Not a bad thing in my opinion, except that *The Works* does rather make it sound as if it had forsaken the said ancestral mansion for a rather noisy squat.

With all this rattling on, it was a relief to turn to Radio 4 and the calmer waters of *Concerto* (Tuesdays). The excellent June Knox-Mawer has just inaugurated a series of seven conversations with celebrated musicians, by talking to the Korean violinist, Kyung Wha Chung. This served as an introduction to a selection of her recordings, but not, I'm glad to say, as an excuse for them. It was a proper, thoughtful interview to which the lady eagerly responded, revealing an engaging character — candid, articulate, reflective. She has acquired, she told us, a reputation for being difficult, which appears to mean that she stands up for herself — as she needs to — against little autocratic habits of international conductors.

What an unexpected 25 minutes came with *Flight From Love* (Radio 4, Friday; producer Julian Hale). Dick Rutan and Gena Yeager built and piloted *Poyager* in the first-ever non-stop flight around the world. In doing so they fell in and then out of love. She had evidently survived the experience in a no-nonsense fashion, but it had left him desolated, a triumph from the flame clouded over by an unending sense of personal loss. A programme which had started as if it were to be a brief adventure story, suddenly plunged into an almost confessional intimacy. The transition and the contrast of emotions was quite startling.

David Wade

Late and early

CONCERTS

The Mozart
Experience
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The bicentenary of Mozart's death is coming with a long pre-echo, even if one discounts fantasies. Now we have Roger Norrington, with his usual mixture of soft scholarly chat and crack musician-ship, conducting us through the music.

For the opening programme we had been promised a movement from every work Mozart composed in his last year, and it was a pity to find that charming idea adapted to the needs of practicality and didacticism; there were no songs, no chamber music, no mechanical organs, no glass harmonica (though all of these

things featured elsewhere in the weekend). Instead we had a kind of negative image of *The Magic Flute*, with music written around it (some delicious tastes of Mozart's dances, concerto movements, Masonic and church pieces) and behind it (the second-act finale from *Die Entführung*, the Bach chorus which the Armed Men seem to know).

Maldwyn Davies's affectingly vulnerable singing was a pleasure in the Masonic cantata and as Belmonte, and Lynne Dawson was strongly true and pure as Konstanze. The fear that period instruments still cause more problems than they solve was raised in the fore by Lesley Schatzberger in the slow movement of *The Clarinet Concerto*, but the orchestra, particularly the flute and oboe, made a splendid noise in the finale of the "Jupiter" symphony.

Paul Griffiths

Consort of Musick
Wigmore Hall

Anthony Rooley, the Director of the Consort of Musick, always champions his causes convincingly, as though he were a personal acquaintance of the composers involved. His essay on the late 16th-century Mantuan composer Orazio Vecchi, in the programme booklet for this concert, enthused over a versatile and unjustly neglected talent, comparing his art directly with that of Gilbert and Sullivan. The madrigal sequences given here did provide evidence of a composer of sharp wit as well as deep sensitivity, and one, moreover, whose sense of proportion is never anything other than elegant.

Vecchi's humorous side was demonstrated vividly in *Il giardiniero*, a gently bawdy dialogue in three sections for six voices which change roles as the composer desires. The Consort of Musick garlanded this piece with some pretty physical gestures, so that

confusion over which party was singing when was avoided. Their action also served to concentrate attention on details of polyphony, a step forward here or a wave of the arm there, drawing notice to a particular entry or point of imitation. The dividing line between such illumination and an intrusively affected kind of movement is a delicate one; happily, it was breached neither here nor in the four madrigals of *La Caccin d'Amore*, a sparkling whirligig of mildly naughty social games, complete with tongue-twisters.

But it was the nine "musical humours" of the fourteen that form the last part of Vecchi's 1604 collection *Le reglie di Siena* which demonstrated the real breadth of this composer's art. No need for any action here; each mood, whether dark, light, or anything in between, is subtly captured in both music and (Vecchi's own) words; the Consort's singers, always blending meticulously, adjusted themselves perfectly to every one.

Stephen Pettitt

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MONDAY PAGE

هكذا من الأصل



Getting the women's vote: Jim Addison, managing director of shortlisted CPM Sales in Oxfordshire, and Karin Kimber, with some of the female workforce

Make mother's day

Today *New Woman* announces the name of the company that has won the 'Working for Women' award; Lee Rodwell looks at the nominations

There is a drawing on my office wall of a married couple setting off for work. All you can see of the husband is one pin-striped leg vanishing on the far right. Then comes the wife, executive briefcase in hand — but her progress is hindered by the shackles round her ankles as she drags behind her two cuddly toys, a line of washing, and a baby in a cot.

It is a neat illustration of a truth known to many working mothers: one of the most powerful obstacles hindering women's progress is the burden of child care. And finding employment with a company which will help rather than hinder one's attempt to juggle the demands of a job and a family is far from easy.

Last October *New Woman* magazine invited readers to nominate the companies for their new "Working for Women" award. The aim was to promote a continued awareness of the needs of the working mother, and the award was to go to the company which not only had a genuinely equal attitude to women in promotion terms, but which was also supportive of women with families.

The judges — all working mothers — were Jennifer D'Abo, former chairman of Ryman; Julia Somerville, the ITN newsreader; and Frankie McGowan, editor of *New Woman*. McGowan says: "To be honest, I did not expect a huge response, but in fact we were inundated with letters. However, most of them came from women writing to say how dreadful their firm was. We had to rule out a number of others — where we could see that a firm had been generous to a woman because they valued her particular skills, but we could not be certain that their generosity would extend to all women."

"And it also became clear that a lot of companies who were merely observing the law were giving their employees

the impression that they were actually doing them a big favour. In the end we were left with between 90 and 100 legitimate nominations — which sounds high until you think of the number of companies employing women."

The results are being announced at midday today. Three of those who have reached the shortlist are big retailers who are generally recognized as having an enlightened attitude — Marks & Spencer, Boots and Tesco — but the others include a sales promotion company, an engineering firm, a charity, and Radio Telefis Eireann.

Apart from running courses to encourage women to move both into management positions and into non-traditional areas (such as behind cameras), RTE has a job-sharing scheme, its own crèche, offers 14 weeks' paid maternity leave, and has allowed new mothers to take leave of absence for up to a year after having a baby. Employees can also have three days' compassionate leave a year, extended to five days if, for instance, a child is very ill.

However, Caroline Murphy, 32, who has two daughters aged one and two and is currently training as a producer/director for television sport, says there is more to it than that. "It is the way they treat you as an individual. When I returned from my first maternity leave I did not want to go back to shift work as a presenter/reporter in the news room. I was going to leave to do contract work but the personnel department persuaded me not to. They said that when you've just had a baby you

need time to let things shake down. When I mentioned going back to radio they offered me promotion as a radio producer within a week."

Karin Kimber's experience of trying to combine work and motherhood was rather different. Kimber, 30, is a secretary at CPM Sales, a sales promotion and field merchandizing and marketing company at Thame, Oxfordshire. She has three children aged four, five and seven, and until last June had given up the idea of a permanent job and was temping. "Every time I went along for an interview I was asked what I would do if the children were sick or on holiday from school. I felt as though I had a disease — and it was called children. But when my boss at CPM asked why I was a temp and I told him, he simply asked me what hours I wanted to work."

It is the attitude of management and co-workers that matters as much as the formal terms and conditions of employment, she adds. "In places where I'd worked before, I felt that if I had to take a day off because a child was ill, other women bickered about it. In the end you just ring up and say it's your sick day."

The company employs about 220 people of whom around 140 are women, from managers to secretaries. Jim Addison, the managing director, says: "The amount of available labour, particularly in the south-east, is becoming more and more stretched, and any forward-looking company must be looking at where it will find its labour force in five to 10 years' time. If we are flexible and sympathetic to women's needs, then they will

feel good about us and we will get more out of them."

Dorothy Andrews, 37, has three children aged 15, 11 and seven; she is a tracer with Roberts & Partners, a firm of consulting engineers. Of the 130 staff about 30 are women. She works in the Basingstoke office — when she isn't working from home. "The company provides drawing boards for us so that if a child is sick or the childminder is on holiday, we can get on with the work at home without feeling guilty about leaving the child or neglecting the job."

She Kirely is the company's personnel and accounts manager. "It helps that we are a fairly young company," she says. "We were able to work out positive, flexible policies." Another shortlisted firm, Fullemplay, a London-based charity which helps black and Asian communities and employs 123 women out of a staff of 186, offers more than a sympathetic approach about days off to care for sick children or cope with other domestic crises. As Julia Paylor, the personnel manager, says, they have generous maternity and paternity leave arrangements. "Women on maternity leave get 16 weeks on full pay and can take up to a year off starting from the week the baby's due. We already have an informal agreement that if people have a sick child at home they can have paid time off. In addition, if someone has to work unusual hours — in the evening or at weekends, for instance — we pay a child minding allowance."

None of the things any of these companies offer is particularly revolutionary: time off without loss of pay to look after a sick child; flexible working hours that can accommodate anything from having to take a child to the doctor to going to the school play; maternity provisions that go beyond the statutory requirements; a crèche, above all, an atmosphere in which the working mother feels needed and appreciated. This is all that most working mothers ask for.

Are there signs that things are changing? McGowan is not overly optimistic: "By the mid-1990s firms will need working mothers, as the number of school leavers available for employment drops. But in general, large companies do not seem to recognize the needs of families. Perhaps it's because they tend to be run by men who leave that kind of thing to their wives — wives who don't work."

He arrived in Hollywood in 1964 and became an assistant to Roger Corman before getting his first chance to direct four years later, guiding Boris Karloff through *Targets*. In 1971 he made *The Last Picture Show*, followed by *What's Up Doc?*, *Paper Moon*, and 1985's critical success, *Mask*. He has been involved with the Hoogstraten family since he made the comedy film *They All Laughed*. Audrey Hepburn

Loving sisters

Centrefold model is slain by jealous husband over affair with film director, who marries her kd sister. But this is real . . .

The story of Dorothy Stratten and the men who tried to control, manipulate and — just possibly — love her has become a disillusioning and sad symbol of the Eighties.

As the decade began Stratten was already Playmate of the Year, an actress in three films, and the lover of director Peter Bogdanovich. Then she was savagely murdered by her husband of a husband, Paul Snider, who subsequently turned the 12-gauge Mossberg shotgun on himself. It happened two years and one day after she arrived in Hollywood. She was 20.

A debate in print, in major magazine articles and books, and in films — notably the late Bob Fosse's *Star 80* — began. Then there were lawsuits, counter-lawsuits and continuing rumour about the life and death of Dorothy Ruth Hoogstraten, whose working life began as a waitress in a fast-food restaurant in Vancouver.

While an industry of gossip swelled around Stratten, Bogdanovich himself defended and worked to immortalize her. Last week we learnt that Bogdanovich, 49, has married Dorothy's sister Louise Hoogstraten, who is now 20. And it is said that he paid for his bride — known professionally as L.B. Stratten — to have plastic surgery to make her look more like her murdered sister.

The real kernel of the 'strange Stratten case' is dominant men and submissive women. Bogdanovich is a serious, introverted man who needs to be in control. He is also a film junkie (Cybill Shepherd, a previous Bogdanovich protégée who called him "Sven" for Svengali, says they used to watch "at least one thousand films a year"). In the late Fifties and early Sixties he was a theatre actor in New York, and a prolific critic and essayist on films and film-makers.

He arrived in Hollywood in 1964 and became an assistant to Roger Corman before getting his first chance to direct four years later, guiding Boris Karloff through *Targets*. In 1971 he made *The Last Picture Show*, followed by *What's Up Doc?*, *Paper Moon*, and 1985's critical success, *Mask*. He has been involved with the Hoogstraten family since he made the comedy film *They All Laughed*. Audrey Hepburn



The murdered centrefold: poor Dorothy Stratten



The film director who likes to control: Peter Bogdanovich



The rising kid sister: Louise Stratten, now aged 20

and Ben Gazzara were the stars, but Dorothy Stratten was the big attraction for Bogdanovich, and her role grew as his fascination increased. She became his lover, and he planned to marry her after she divorced Snider. But Snider, who had talked Stratten out of her other and then used her nude pictures as a passport out of Vancouver and into Hugh Hefner's Playboy mansion, acted first, killing his wife and himself on August 14, 1980.

A Hoogstraten family friend says Bogdanovich has been interested in Louise since shortly after Dorothy died. "He travelled throughout

Europe with her and her mother. In his grief over losing Dorothy he became closer to the family."

Perhaps also "in grief, Bogdanovich set about writing 'the truth', and in doing so launched a fierce attack on Hugh Hefner, his private life and public Playboy philosophy, in *The Killing of the Unicorn: Dorothy Stratten 1960-1980*. In it he calls Hefner "a kind of Walt Disney of pornography homogenized for the masses". He says Hefner must bear part responsibility for Dorothy's death for luring her into the Playboy lifestyle.

In turn, Hefner blamed Bogdanovich and his book for a stroke which he said was brought on by stress. He also alleged that Bogdanovich began an affair with Louise Hoogstraten not long after Dorothy's death, and also that he had had sexual relations with her mother, Nelly. And it was he who claimed Bogdanovich had paid for cosmetic surgery to make Louise look like Dorothy.

But Bogdanovich has not dropped his fascination with Dorothy Stratten. "She and Peter were in love and her death changed Peter forever. I don't think he will ever get over it," says John Ritter, who co-starred in *They All Laughed*. The director still screens the film for himself. "The film was my salvation, my record of Dorothy. It showed her beauty and luminousness, her promise."

In the years after the murder he described himself as a widower. His friends say that when he is asked about his moods or when can understand him or them he answers: "Dorothy, only Dorothy." He has also been reluctant to make films, and says he only agreed to do *Mask* "because I thought Dorothy would like the picture".

Bogdanovich's life appears now to have come full circle. Nearly 10 years after Dorothy Stratten's death, he has married her sister. And he is about to be reunited on film in *Texaville* with Cybill Shepherd, two decades after *The Last Picture Show*.

It will be no surprise if L.B. Stratten turns up in the cast — there is a perfect role for her as Shepherd's daughter. And stranger things have happened.

Douglas Thompson

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The New Britannica if you really want to know

What the Sultan can't buy

This spring a book is to be published about the richest man in the world, who happens to be the Sultan of Brunei. The promotional literature about this forthcoming publication makes pretty reading: "This book is about wealth that is beyond the limit of most people's imaginations. It is about the Croesus of modern times — a man who does not face the question 'what can I afford?' but 'what do I really want?'"

"The answers have included the Dorchester Hotel in London, the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles, a personalized Boeing 747, two wives (concurrently) and a lifestyle of extraordinary luxury."

One thing the Croesus of modern times obviously did not have a hankering for was a smidgen of good taste, for he is photographed sitting at one of those hideous roccoco tables which look as if it were purchased in the seediest section of Tottenham Court Road. In addition to the general air of tackiness, the Sultan has accessorized himself with caparottes, medals and several strings of pearls and has a haircut which would give Vidal Sassoon a terminal nervous

breakdown on the spot. The next time the richest man in the world starts to wonder what it is that he really wants, I hope that the answer he comes up with is a personalized fashion adviser.

The Sultan is not the only one around here who has to distinguish what he wants from what he can afford. According to the fortieth anniversary edition of *Britain — An Official Handbook*, which was published by the Central Office of Information last week, more people can afford more things than ever before. Half of our households have two television sets, 46 per cent of us own video recorders and 21 per cent of the population now take two or more holidays away from home. This all snacks of disposable income and when there is money to hand, there is always an entrepreneur around to create that "must have it" feeling. On the day I glanced through *Britain — An Official Handbook*, I also read an article in this newspaper proclaiming that the £50 pair of jeans

cannot be far off, as the Page group of companies has discovered that "yesterday's statement of rebellion is becoming a status symbol for the middle-aged", and is pushing designer denim all over the world.

The question is do we really want all these symbols of an affluent society or do we buy them because they are there and affordable? It strikes me that people won't get much use out of their video recorder if they are always off on holiday or snipping down the shops to buy a new pair of expensive jeans.

I cannot believe that the Sultan really wanted the Dorchester. Why have all the hassle of guests complaining about the size of the bath-towels or the tardiness of the service when you can be a guest and the one to do the complaining? Why have two wives when it lets you in for two lots of pre-menstrual tension and two different styles of marital bickering? I bet the Sultan didn't really want any of this; he just thought he ought to have it because his

current account was in the black.

I have spent a fair bit of time this week wandering around the sales trying to pretend I wanted something. And I just couldn't go through with it. What I want is true love, long eyelashes and small feet and you cannot buy any of those at Harrods.

I don't even want the richest man in the world as he seems to have an ownership complex and I feel very sorry for both of his wives if they have to spend their lives flying in the personalized plane to check out the properties in London and Beverly Hills. If one runs into a little turbulence when airborne, one wishes to be quickly sick and complain to British Airways afterwards.

Whereas I suppose the Sultan's ladies have to keep on smiling through while pretending that they love bumping through the clouds in their husband's new toy. I bet what wives number one and two really want is never to have to stay at the Dorchester or the Beverly Hills Hotel and to be able to travel everywhere by train.

© The Richest Man in the World, by James Bartholomew, to be published by Viking in April (price £12.95)

PENNY PERRICK

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ANYTHING FOR A QUIET LIFE**: Theatre de Complicité's funniest show: using the terrible truth about office life. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (01-359 4404). Tube: Highbury & Islington. Preview from tonight, 8pm. Press night Wed, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm. Mon-Sat 8.30pm. Tue-Thu 8.30pm. Fri-Sat 8.50pm. (D)

★ **ARTIST DESCENDING A STAIRCASE**: Dert, often touching, stage version of Tom Stoppard's radio play, transferred from the King's Head. Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-536 5122). Tube: Leicester Sq. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, mats Fri and Sat 8pm, £5-£13.50.

★ **BLOOD BROTHERS**: Willy Russell's sentimental musical: separated twins destroyed by the English class system; Klu De as their mother. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-537 1115). Tube: Leicester Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 8pm and Sat 8pm, £5-11.50. (D)

★ **HENCEFORWARD**: Ian McKellen and Jane Asher in excellent Ayckbourn play set in future London served by willing robots. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9888). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8.30pm. Mats Wed 8.30pm and Sat 8.30pm, £5-12. (D)

★ **THE INFANT**: Almost the earliest (1782) Russian play, by Denis Fonvizin, satirizing the antics of boorish landowners: first in a classy series celebrating the Gaiety's 100th season. Gaiety Theatre, Prince Albert Public House, Fenchurch Street, W1 (01-229 0708). Tube: Notting Hill Gate. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £5.

★ **A MAN WITH CONNECTIONS**: Bill Paterson and Mary Crutchank in Britain's most popular play of 1987, by Gorbodach's friend Alexander Gelman: bribery and corruption in the construction racket. Royal Theatre, Sloane Sq, SW1 (01-730 1745). Tube: Sloane Square. Last preview tonight, 8pm. Press night tomorrow, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm. Mon-Sat 8.30pm, Fri-Sat 8.50pm, £5-12. (D)

★ **LETITIA AND LOVAGE**: Geraldine McEwan and Sara Kestelman take over the leads in Peter Shaffer's smash comedy where two unlikely partners wage eccentric war against the modern world. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 3677). Tube: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 3pm, £5-10.50. (D)

★ **MRS KLEIN**: Transfer from the National Theatre of Nicholas Wright's engrossing play about parentage and childhood in the life of Melanie Klein. Superb performances by Gillian Garg. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 3677). Tube: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 3pm, £5-10.50. (D)

TELEVISION TO 10

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 7

Rank	Programme	Time	Channel
1	Neighbours (Fri)	20.55m	5
2	EastEnders (Thu)	20.50m	5
3	EastEnders (Tue/Sun)	19.35m	5
4	Neighbours (Thu)	19.30m	5
5	Neighbours (Wed)	18.70m	5
6	Neighbours (Mon)	18.50m	5
7	Neighbours (Sat)	18.50m	5
8	East of the Summer Wine	17.10m	1
9	Adrian Mole	17.05m	1
10	Coronation Street (Wed)	16.15m	5
11	Coronation Street (Mon)	15.00m	5
12	News at Ten (Wed)	11.00pm	5
13	The Bill (Thu)	10.55m	5
14	This Is Your Life	10.30m	5
15	Boon	10.20m	5
16	10 Years of Night	10.15m	5
17	The Bill (Tue)	11.00m	5
18	The Bill (Fri)	11.00m	5
19	10 Years of Night	11.00m	5
20	10 Years of Night	11.00m	5

★ **THE SECRET RAPTURE**: A new play by David Hare. National Theatre, London. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 3pm, £5-10.50. (D)

★ **THE ELAPSE**: Roy Marsden and Kate O'Hara in British Actors' Theatre revival of Vanbrugh's ever popular comedy. Malthouse Theatre, Puddle Dock, EC4 (01-236 568). Tube: Blackfriars. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu 8pm and Sat 8pm. Tue-Thu 8.30pm, Fri-Sat 8.50pm. (D)

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A delightful prospect

Something old, something new and something borrowed is the very least one can expect from the Royal Opera's New Year production, *Die Fledermaus*, that old war-horse of the season, will break with tradition by being sung in an entirely new English version by John Mortimer. His contribution should be as unpredictable as his delightful as that of Cliff Hayes Jones (above), who plays the spoken part of Frosch, the garrulous goater. John Cox's new production borrows the company's existing 1977 Viennese sets by Julia Trevelyan Oman as a backdrop for a promising cast:

Canon Fulham Rd (01-370 2835). Progs 2.10, 5.55, 9.05. 25 Plaza (01-200 0200). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40. Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 4.05, 6.40, 8.40.

★ **HIGH SPIRITS** (15): Spirited supernatural comedy from director Neil Jordan, with Peter O'Toole as the owner of a haunted house who runs a women's fertility clinic and shares the same girlfriend (Genevieve Bujold) (15 min). Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40.

★ **THE DRISMAKER** (15): Beryl Bainbridge's novel about a teenage girl in wartime Liverpool whose romance with a German officer leads to her death. Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40.

★ **A PRICED WANDA** (15): The adventures of two scheming Americans (Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline), an uptight Englishman (John Cleese) and an anti-right-wing fanatic (Richard Briers). Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40.

★ **WAR REQUIEM** (15): Derek Jarman's sombre visualization of Benjamin Britten's celebrated oratorio with Nathaniel Parker as the poet Wilfred Owen, and apocalyptic images of warfare (86 min). Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40.

★ **WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT** (PG): Energetic musical of cartoons and live-action animation director Richard Williams supplies a frantic story of "toon" characters, headed by Roger Rabbit. Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40.

★ **THE LONELY PASSION OF JUDITH HEARNE** (15): Intelligent version of Brian Moore's novel about an impoverished woman whose romantic dreams turn sour. With Maggie Smith, Ewan Hooper (103 min). Screen on Baker St (01-935 2772). Progs 1.30, 5.50, 8.40.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM.
6.35 Leon Errol in *Punchy Pancho* (b/w). 6.55 Weather.
7.00 Breakfast with Jeremy Paxman and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; and, at 7.45, live coverage of the draw for the fourth round of the FA Cup, introduced by Bob Wilson. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather followed by *Call the Director-General*, presented by Kate Adie, following last night's *See for Yourself* programme, Michael Checkland will answer questions from viewers and listeners. To participate ring 01-580 4411 (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4).
10.00 News and weather followed by *The Patrick Show* (r). 10.25 Children's BBC presentation. Andy Crane begins with *Playbox* 10.50 Paddington (r). 10.55 Five to Eleven. Estelle Kohler with a reading.
11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers tackle television programme makers.
12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live* with Sue Cook, Judi Spiers and Simon Potter. The guests include John Mortimer. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 The O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Interfering Eileen is getting on Daphne's nerves.
1.50 Going for Gold. European general knowledge game presented by Henry Kelly.
2.15 Ironside. The wheelchair-bound police chief and his team solve another mystery. Starring Raymond Burr (r).
3.05 The Hogan Family. The first of a new domestic comedy series - a sequel to *Valerie*, starring Josh Taylor.

BBC2

- 9.00 Ceefax 9.40 Daytime on Two: going to work. 10.05 Japan's Tanabata festival. 10.18 Music time. 10.40 Thinkabout. 10.50 Animals' mobility. 11.20 Samba music. 11.40 Information world. 12.00 French for beginners. 12.15 Agassament. 12.35 Growing up in today's Britain. 1.00 Science in action. 1.25 Postman Pat (r). 1.40 Landmarks. Watching the weather. 2.00 News and weather followed by *Words and Pictures*. 2.15 Songs of Praise (r). (Ceefax).
2.50 World Darts. The Embassy World Professional Championship. Includes news and weather. 3.00 and 3.50 Catchword. Word game presented by Paul Cole. 4.30 Behind the Screen. The latest news about BBC television programmes. 4.35 Country File (r).
5.00 Film: *The Last Moment* (1947, b/w) starring Susan Hayward and Robert Cummings. Drama, based on Henry James's *The Aspern Papers*. Directed by Martin Gabel.

BBC1

- Wales Today 1.00-1.30. See for Yourself 1.35-1.50. News and weather 1.55-2.00. 2.05-2.15. 2.20-2.30. 2.35-2.45. 2.50-3.00. 3.05-3.15. 3.20-3.30. 3.35-3.45. 3.50-4.00. 4.05-4.15. 4.20-4.30. 4.35-4.45. 4.50-5.00. 5.05-5.15. 5.20-5.30. 5.35-5.45. 5.50-6.00. 6.05-6.15. 6.20-6.30. 6.35-6.45. 6.50-7.00. 7.05-7.15. 7.20-7.30. 7.35-7.45. 7.50-8.00. 8.05-8.15. 8.20-8.30. 8.35-8.45. 8.50-9.00. 9.05-9.15. 9.20-9.30. 9.35-9.45. 9.50-10.00. 10.05-10.15. 10.20-10.30. 10.35-10.45. 10.50-11.00. 11.05-11.15. 11.20-11.30. 11.35-11.45. 11.50-12.00. 12.05-12.15. 12.20-12.30. 12.35-12.45. 12.50-1.00. 1.05-1.15. 1.20-1.30. 1.35-1.45. 1.50-2.00. 2.05-2.15. 2.20-2.30. 2.35-2.45. 2.50-3.00. 3.05-3.15. 3.20-3.30. 3.35-3.45. 3.50-4.00. 4.05-4.15. 4.20-4.30. 4.35-4.45. 4.50-5.00. 5.05-5.15. 5.20-5.30. 5.35-5.45. 5.50-6.00. 6.05-6.15. 6.20-6.30. 6.35-6.45. 6.50-7.00. 7.05-7.15. 7.20-7.30. 7.35-7.45. 7.50-8.00. 8.05-8.15. 8.20-8.30. 8.35-8.45. 8.50-9.00. 9.05-9.15. 9.20-9.30. 9.35-9.45. 9.50-10.00. 10.05-10.15. 10.20-10.30. 10.35-10.45. 10.50-11.00. 11.05-11.15. 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Soviet economy reaches new low

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CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share	1481.3 (+26.0)
US dollar	1.7790 (-0.0300)
FT-SE 100	1811.3 (+18.2)
W German mark	3.2235 (+0.0180)
USM (Datastream)	148.36 (+0.98)
Exchange index	97.4

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Ladbroke buys \$41m racecourse

Ladbroke Group has stepped up its expansion programme in the US through the \$41 million (£23 million) acquisition of the Golden Gate Fields racecourse in San Francisco.

The deal follows the group's recent acquisition of The Meadows race track in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The acquisitions came as a result of legislation passed by both states to legalize off-track betting (OTB). However, licences will be confined to owners of race tracks, which primarily explains Ladbroke's interest in US racecourses.

Golden Gate Fields had a turnover of about \$350 million last year.

Mr Peter George, chairman of Ladbroke Racing, said: "The acquisition of Golden Gate Fields in America's largest and most prosperous state establishes Ladbroke as a major player in the burgeoning US off-track betting market."

Golden Gate and Bay Meadows, the other main race track in northern California, operate 22-week thoroughbred racing programmes, five days a week. Both racecourses also screen each other's programmes live via satellite.

Last March Ladbroke was awarded the licence to conduct betting operations in Wyoming, which marked the first such licence being granted to a British operator.

Wardle says bid is final

Wardle Storeys has declared its offer for Armstrong Equipment, the Yorkshire shock absorber and industrial fasteners group, final. The deadline for raising the bid expired on Saturday.

Mr Brian Taylor, managing director of Wardle, said the decision came as a result of Armstrong's disappointing profit forecast last week, which revealed a surprise £1.5 million charge to cover its pension fund holiday.

He said: "Our offer fully values the company, particularly if one keeps in mind that it represents the highest price-earnings ratio paid in this industry for over a decade." The offer values the company at about twice the sector average of 7.3.

This met with an angry response from Mr Roy Watts, chairman of Armstrong. "Armstrong is forecasting an increase in profits in the second half of 1988-89 of approximately 150 per cent."

"Our shareholders currently hold shares in a leading UK independent automotive company with strong management and excellent prospects. Why should they have to forfeit their investment in return for shares in a company in the chemicals sector plus cash on which they may be liable for capital gains tax?" he said.

Temps, page 20

Pillsbury chief

Mr Ian Martin, head of Grand Metropolitan's food division, arrives in Minneapolis today as the new chief executive of the Pillsbury group, taken over by GrandMet after a \$6.5 billion (£3.6 billion) bid battle.

Ambitions agenda, page 20

MB terms

MB Group, the former Metal Box, is posting a circular to shareholders today, explaining the terms of the proposed merger of its packaging interests with Carnaud, the French packaging group.

Page 21

Dull financial performance could make friends hard to find GEC faces tough takeover fight

By Colin Campbell

General Electric Company (GEC), led for the past two decades by Lord Weinstock, faces an uphill battle to fight off the proposed takeover bid disclosed at the weekend by a consortium of international companies and Sir John Cuckney's newly formed Melsun group, City analysts say.

GEC shares, which rose 13p last week to 202p—within a whisker of their year's high—are poised to trade sharply higher when the Stock Exchange opens this morning as speculation mounts that the opening shot for GEC would have to be at least 250p a share, valuing the diversified electronics group at more than £7 billion. It would be Britain's biggest ever takeover bid.

GEC has a stock market valuation of £5.4 billion and last financial year reported

sales of £5.5 billion and pre-tax profits of £708 million.

Consortium members include Plessey and the French-controlled Thomson-CSF group. Plessey yesterday said it had "absolutely no comment".

Other likely bid partners include Britain's STC and AT & T, the United States telecommunications combine. Sir John is, at present, the only shareholder in the bid vehicle, Melsun Limited.

GEC is in the middle of its own £1.7 billion bid battle for Plessey. If GEC is seriously threatened, Siemens, its West German partner in the Plessey bid, could come in as its white knight.

GEC yesterday dismissed what it called a "vague and inconclusive statement" about a possible offer which contained no actual names. "This appears to be a self-

interested attempt by the board of Plessey and its advisers to form a consortium to break up the GEC and thereby save Plessey..." the statement said.

City institutions have long regarded GEC as a takeover waiting to happen, and are unlikely to fall over themselves to help it stay independent because of its financial record and share price performance.

Mr Stephen Parker of UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, recently gave warning that time was running out for GEC. "Over the next two years, either GEC must make a number of strategic moves to improve its earnings outlook, or it could fall victim to a bid. For a predator, the attraction of GEC is its cash and the hefty discount to realizable asset value." He advised in October: "Unless investors recognize the underlying value of GEC's assets now, they

run the risk of being caught when the trigger is eventually pulled."

GEC has in recent years come in for mounting investment criticism. The compound growth in net earnings over the past five years has been a meagre 1 per cent, and the group has been slow in employing its cash mountain, estimated at £1.4 billion.

Lord Weinstock admitted to analysts last June that GEC had been too restrictive in its dividend policy, and would be more generous.

GEC said yesterday it had been aware "for some weeks" that Barclays Bank—of which GEC's chairman Lord Prior was a director until his weekend resignation—had been trying to arrange £3.5 billion as part of a financial package to help stage a multi-million pound takeover. It was, therefore, not totally surprised by Sat-

urday's statement from Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank advising the consortium.

In a retaliatory move GEC closed its accounts with Barclays, Barclays, according to GEC, had earlier given its assurance that market rumours that it was arranging finance for a hostile bid were untrue.

GEC's detective work suggesting that Barclays was playing a hand in marshalling funds to mount a bid led to Friday's decision to withdraw its massive cash piles, and in turn the resignation of Lord Prior. Lazard insists its statement was made solely because the circle of interested consortium parties was widening, and to pre-empt further Stock Exchange speculation in GEC shares.

Meanwhile, GEC is determined to pursue its bid for Plessey.

Siemens could be a white knight

By Wolfgang Mincham

Siemens, GEC's partner in the bid for Plessey, has emerged as the most likely white knight for GEC if the consortium bid emerges and is deemed politically acceptable.

Both companies are already linked through numerous joint ventures, including the Osram-GEC lighting business.

Ironically, if Siemens came to the rescue and mounted its own friendly bid for GEC, both GEC and Plessey could end up in West German hands, the British government and the European Commission permitting.

Such a move would be consistent with the declaration in *The Times* on Saturday by Dr Andreas Zimmermann, the director of corporate strategy, that Britain takes a high priority in Siemens's preparation for 1992.

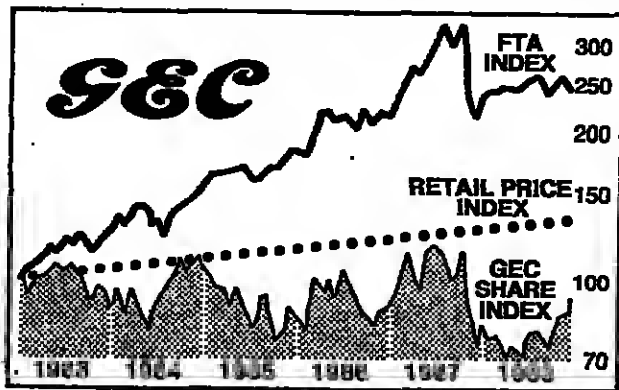
Siemens has many similarities to GEC but on a larger scale. It has net cash resources of DM23 billion (£7 billion), but about half is the capital of its internal pension fund.

A complicated merger agreement would be more likely than a takeover, not least for political reasons. This could involve pooling operations in a joint company in such a way that GEC is able to pay back large sums, to shareholders.

A Siemens spokesman declined to comment on the possibility of such a joint venture, but the consortium bid has not taken Siemens greatly by surprise. It is also understood that Dr Karlheinz Kaske, Siemens' chief executive, and Lord Weinstock have been in touch ever since they first met in August to discuss the bid for Plessey.



Squaring up for a battle: Sir John Cuckney, head of Melsun, the consortium's bid vehicle and Lord Weinstock, the managing director of GEC



GEC AT A GLANCE

Electronic systems: Sales £2,137 million. Profit £208 million. Estimated value £1.8 billion. Includes: Marconi defence electronics and components, GEC avionics, Yarrow naval shipbuilders.

Telecommunications: Sales £732 million. Profit £102 million. Estimated value £726 million. Now merged with Plessey operations as half share of GPT.

Automation and control: Sales £551 million. Profit £48 million. Estimated value £240 million. Includes: Avery weighing machinery, Gilbarco and Avery-Hardoll garage pumps and systems, GEC Traffic Automation.

Medical equipment: Sales £267 million. Profit £21 million. Estimated value £112 million. Includes: Picker International scanners (1,000 sold).

Power generation: Sales £524 million. Profit £56 million. Estimated value £396 million. Includes: power station turbines (one of world's biggest exporters), Ruston gas

turbines, GEC and Ruston Diesels and Paxman diesels for ships.

Electrical equipment: Sales £734 million. Profit £58 million. Estimated value £418 million. Includes: Railway locomotives, power and signalling systems, power cables, wire, switchgear and transformers, Nightstar electric central heating boilers, Express lifts.

Consumer products: Sales £582 million. Profit £80 million. Estimated value £507 million. Includes: Hotpoint and Creda domestic appliances, electric fires, Redding kettles and showers, Xpelair fans, Osram lighting.

Distribution and trading: Sales £192 million. Profit £12 million. Includes: subsidiaries in Far East, Australasia and Africa.

Investments: Net profit £132 million. Includes £1.4 billion cash and investments in associate companies worth £100 million. Figures for year to March 31, 1988. Value estimates from UBS Phillips & Drew.



Defence implications need careful examination

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Ministry of Defence officials greeted the possible bid for GEC with considerable surprise. They have been watching with increasing interest GEC's second attempt to swallow its defence rival Plessey.

If the announcement over

the weekend indicates a genuine attempt to buy GEC, ending its domination of the British electronics industry, the full defence implications will have to be carefully studied.

But according to Whitehall sources, ministers today view with far less concern the prospect of a British company being purchased by a con-

sortium that has a significant foreign element.

That is why the GEC-Siemens bid for Plessey was looked at in a different light from GEC's unsuccessful takeover attempt in 1986.

International consortia, especially those which have a strong European membership capable of taking on the

American giants in the competitive market, are seen as the way ahead, partly because of the increased chance of collaboration between Nato partners on important projects.

The fact that the European option was rejected by the Government in the Westland helicopter crisis three years

ago and that Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, is putting together the new bid for GEC underlines both the irony of the situation and the changing attitude of the Government.

GEC, with its huge Marconi subsidiaries, is second only to British Aerospace in its dealings with the MoD. The

Marconi companies are involved in a vast range of military programmes.

GEC Avionics is competing for a main share in the avionics systems for the collaborative European Fighter Aircraft project. Yarrow Shipbuilders, bought by GEC, is building two Type 23 frigates for the Royal Navy.

London debut for Japanese bank

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank of Japan, which claims to be the world's largest bank with a capital of about £40 billion, has gained a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Dealings begin today.

DKB said it was part of a policy to enhance its position as an international financial institution and to provide greater fund raising flexibility.

DKB is one of several Japanese banks seeking a London listing. Mitsubishi Bank recently gained one, while Sumitomo is expected to be listed here by mid-January. Japanese banks are

also looking for listings on other European exchanges. DKB shares are already quoted on the Amsterdam stock exchange.

Japan's financial markets will reopen for business today, after cancellation of Saturday's session following the death of Emperor Hirohito.

These moves are widely regarded among Western bankers as part of a policy of familiarization with Europe by Japanese institutions in the run-up to 1992.

Firms not awake to 1992 says CBI

By Our City Staff

The vast majority of the 12,000 British companies with sales of more than £10 million are taking little effective action to plan for the Single European Market after 1992, the Confederation of British Industry claims.

Mr John Owens, deputy director general of the CBI, said: "Nearly 10,000 British companies are sleep-walking towards 1992. Many of them will go out of business in the early nineties unless they start preparing now."

A sample survey revealed: ● 80 per cent are not reviewing their strategy.

● 90 per cent are not undertaking market research on the Continent.

● 93 per cent are not taking initiatives to train employees in continental languages.

● 95 per cent do not have sales agents in the rest of the EEC, and only one in 100 is opening any new manufacturing plants on the Continent.

The CBI's survey was made in advance of its nationwide 1992 roadshow which will start in London on Thursday and tour 16 other locations in England, Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland.

£500 payments made as 'gesture of goodwill'

LHW offers compensation to clients

By Tony Hetherington

LHW Futures, the controversial commodity investment company which is now trading under the name Burgon Hall, has offered *ex gratia* payments to an undisclosed number of readers of *The Times* who were clients of the firm when it was notorious for charging excessive commission and for "churning"—repeatedly investing clients' funds in loss-making deals in order to generate commission.

The move follows a claim to *The Times* by Mr Clive Thornton, the chairman of Burgon Hall, that all complaints against LHW had now been thoroughly examined.

At least 30 readers are known to have written to Mr Thornton contesting his statement.

Mr Roy Bagguley of Ormskirk in Lancashire, a housebound invalid, was subjected to persistent cold-calling by LHW salesmen three years ago. "I still find it hard to believe that I was

persuaded to invest, but they really were skilful liars," he says.

Mr Bagguley, who lost £1,964 with LHW, has now been offered £500 compensation.

In a letter to Mr Bagguley, Mr Thornton says he "can find no evidence of any wrongdoing" by LHW, but is prepared to offer £500 "as a gesture of goodwill."

An identical letter, also offering £500, has been received by Mr George Vincent of Billingham in Cleveland. He was telephoned repeatedly at home and at work by LHW until he invested £1,500 in a currency futures contract which proved a total loss.

Later, during his absence abroad on business, LHW regularly telephoned his wife, putting pressure on her to invest in further currency deals.

"It was clear that LHW was not interested in any speculation which lasted more than a few days," he claims. "They wanted pretty well continual change. I am going to write a rather

polite letter saying I think their offer is inadequate."

Mr Vincent added that he would also contact the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers to oppose Burgon Hall's latest application for authorization under the Financial Services Act.

LHW was rejected by the AFBD, which meets on January 19 to consider Burgon Hall's request for membership. The firm currently operates with interim authorization pending a final decision.

Mr Brian Edgeley, Burgon Hall's deputy chairman, denied this weekend that the *ex gratia* payments were part of a clean-up campaign ahead of the AFBD meeting. "I can assure you that it is not a concerted policy that if somebody writes us a letter they get a payment," he said. "It is not unusual for us, or indeed any other broker, to make payments to clients from time to time."

Mr Edgeley added: "I would hope that AFBD and the world as a whole accept that much of what we have been accused of in the past hardly applies now."

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TEMPUS

A golden opportunity for bargain hunters at RTZ

RTZ's great leap forward in mining via its proposed £2.4 billion acquisition of BP Minerals is every analyst's idea of a dream. It puts RTZ firmly on the starting blocks for the 21st century.

The deal brings a host of impressive and valuable assets all in one go; it should help earnings even in the first year and propels RTZ into the position of the world's leading mining company.

Precise financial detail is not expected until April, once a three-month "due diligence" exercise has been completed, and will probably come in time to complement 1988 year-end results.

Meanwhile, as the investment spotlight shines on RTZ for its coup, its Australian associate CRA should not be overlooked — especially if it is able to buy Australian assets now under BP Minerals' control.

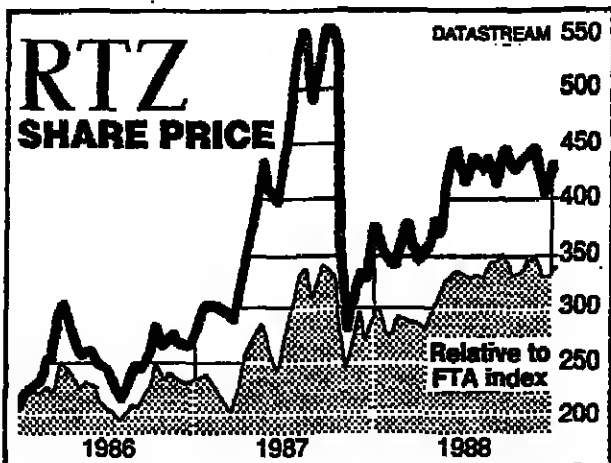
BP Minerals' most visible Australian asset is the 49 per cent stake in Olympic Dam, the copper-uranium-gold-silver mine operated by Western Mining which holds the 51 per cent balance.

Western Mining has pre-emptive rights on BP's stake. Given that it has plenty of cash, it may well exercise them. RTZ would like to take up the rights to Olympic Dam itself, but if there are regulatory problems in holding on to it directly from London, selling on some of the mining operation to CRA is not impossible.

A more intriguing thought from Euan Worthington, mining analyst at Warburg Securities, concerns RTZ and gold. Producing and developing gold mines being acquired will sharply increase group gold production to put RTZ into third place (behind Newmont and Placer Dome) in the league of producers outside South Africa.

Since BP planned in its own right to float its gold assets via BP Gold — only to be frustrated three times by adverse stock market conditions — a public float of a vehicle called RTZ Gold could be a possibility in time.

Market estimates of RTZ's net profit for the 1988 financial year centre around £420 million, compared with £279.5 million in 1987, rising to between £470 million and



£500 million for 1990.

RTZ's profits do not depend on a single metal but come from a range of precious and base metals, with strong support from diversified industrial operations.

The investment conclusion is unanimous: at 437p, on a prospective rating of 8.2, which cases in 7.3 on 1990 projections, RTZ is cheap.

Wardle Storeys

Wardle Storeys surprised the City in refusing to increase its £85 million bid for Armstrong Equipment. The passing of Saturday's deadline clearly suggests that it now believes its combined share-and-cash offer, which values each Armstrong share at 155p, is good enough to give it control.

We shall see. Wardle has not been known for a win-at-any-price strategy, and in the view of most observers it has cut things fine this time. It could be close, but the impression is that Wardle has done its sums correctly.

Armstrong's recent disappointing profit forecast, which estimated current-year pre-tax profits at £8.5 million, about £1 million lower than expected, suggest that the share price could fall back from a current 155p to below 130p if the bid is rejected. A forecast of earnings per share of 14.6p for 1988-89 and an average sector rating of 7.3 times earnings suggests a base for Armstrong's share price of little more than 110p, even allowing for the promised turnaround.

But even these calculations may be too optimistic. Under the new SSAP 24 accounting standard, companies such as Armstrong, which enjoy pen-

sion fund holidays, have to provide an annual charge to avoid overstating the underlying level of earnings. That would make the picture still less favourable.

Armstrong faces a £1.5 million levy. Post-SSAP 24, Armstrong's earnings would be a meagre 11.7p, which, on the sector rating, could even drag the share price back down in 85p.

The main argument against the Wardle bid is the lack of apparent industrial logic. But Armstrong's recent problems, with earnings per share down from 13.4p to 10.5p over the last two years, were management-related. Fundamental management accounting errors at the company's shock absorber plant in York persuaded the management to set prices at levels that proved far too low to be profitable, leading to write-offs of between £2 million and £4 million.

Armstrong has said the problems are being remedied, but whether this will be enough to restore profitability at York towards the end of this financial year is open to question.

Despite the disappointment over the refusal to raise the bid, it appears that Armstrong would have too much to do to match Wardle's offer.

Most people just pulled their crackers and stuffed the turkey, but at UK Paper's works in Kent, engineers spent Christmas upgrading the plant. And when the improved machines were switched on after the break, they worked a treat.

UK Paper

Meanwhile, profit estimates of £18.5 million for 1988 and up to £21 million for the current year, appear on safe ground, leaving the shares at 180p trading at a little over nine times earnings. Given the asset backing, that represents a buying opportunity.

As the switches were thrown, one of the stock market's doubts about UK Paper, which sprang out of the old Bowater empire by way of a management buyout, was removed. In a continuous process such as paper production, any shutdown is serious, and there were some rightly cautious analysts suggesting that a start-up problem could have a nasty effect on 1989 profits.

The other market worry will be less easily removed. Paper is a world commodity, and a strong sterling run, especially against the mark, would undermine the competitive position of domestic companies such as UK Paper.

Fund managers remember the old cyclical pattern at Bowater, and wonder if UK Paper will be able to escape the same fate. The answer is a cautious yes, because the old peak and trough sectors — newsprint and brown paper — have been kicked out of the group, which concentrates on high-grade writing and printing papers.

At the moment, the company is pushing back imports and selling everything it can produce, and its capital investment, about £15 million in 1988, will both increase capacity and bring economies of scale.

Despite the capital programme, gearing at year-end was only about 10 per cent and all the borrowings were long term. The company was running a cash surplus.

But if cash does start to be required, UK Paper has a wonderful cushion in the form of hundreds of acres of development land. Developers are already forming a queue outside the factory gates.

Thus far, 235 surplus acres are zoned for industrial use, with other land more suitable for housing.

The land is in the books at historic values, but the board is discussing some revaluation, which if written into the balance sheet, would bring the modest gearing level down even lower.

Meanwhile, profit estimates of £18.5 million for 1988 and up to £21 million for the current year, appear on safe ground, leaving the shares at 180p trading at a little over nine times earnings. Given the asset backing, that represents a buying opportunity.

US NOTEBOOK

Gradually does it for policy chiefs

From Maxwell Newton
New York

The Federal Reserve is facing a different world from that of early 1988. Now there are no fears that US expansion is going to stall. There is widespread evidence that the economy is strong.

The dollar, which was supported by massive coordinated central bank action in the first week of January 1988, is moving to ever greater strength. Fears of accelerating inflation have been dispelled.

Federal Reserve policy has two main strands — targeting the dollar and reducing the pace of domestic economic expansion to about 2 per cent a year. Both require a high short-term interest rate policy.

In late 1988, the Fed appeared to have adopted a Federal Funds policy of 8 1/2 per cent — 9 per cent. This was disturbed by end-of-year liquidity pressures but it is too early to confirm the Fed has adopted a Funds policy of 9 1/2 per cent — 9 3/4 per cent.

The balancing act performed by the central bank — some higher short-term rates and dollar stability without seriously threatening the expansion — has had remarkable results.

The budget deficit has ceased to be a significant issue for US fiscal policy. With total government spending on goods and services stable in real terms for almost two years, the problem will no doubt solve itself. Behind the facade of apparent indifference to issues like the budget deficit and the trade deficit is the desire to enlarge the Reagan expansion. Gradualism is seen to have worked.

Meanwhile, measures are being taken that will gradually contain growth of domestic borrowing, including higher short-term interest rates.

As these fiscal and monetary policies affect the system, it is expected that US "real" interest rates will fall to their historical level of 1-2 per cent from the present 5 per cent.

There is the clear hope that the next four years could be a repetition of the past four. This would be seen as a vindication of the current policy of fiscal and monetary restraint, under the banners of "stability and gradualism".

GrandMet man moves into Pillsbury with an ambitious agenda

From Bailey Morris
Washington



Martin: critical 90 days

Grand Metropolitan accepts the spoils of its \$6.5 billion (£3.6 billion) US takeover victory today when Mr Ian Martin arrives in Minneapolis to claim ownership of the Pillsbury company as its new chief executive.

Mr Martin, a veteran business commander, is aware the transition must be orderly, and that the first 60 to 90 days are critical to the success of a programme which could transform GrandMet, Britain's 12th largest company, into the biggest food company in the United States.

He has an ambitious agenda which will include additional US acquisitions and the broadening of Pillsbury lines into international markets. First he will need to calm the fears of Pillsbury executives and induct them into the GrandMet corporate culture.

Mr Martin describes this as "about pace and momentum." It is "a restless dissatisfaction with the status quo."

As a true internationalist, Mr Martin, aged 53, has set his sights on markets well beyond the US borders, into the Europe of 1992 and Far East Asia. He brings to Pillsbury an outward-looking style of management which many US companies lost after their daring escapades of the 1960s when they launched global conglomerates.

For example, the international branding of established Pillsbury products, notably the Green Giant vegetable line, will be a top goal.

There will also be additional US acquisitions, and Mr Martin, as head of GrandMet's food division — which now accounts for more than 50 per cent of total turnover — will spearhead a drive into Europe, where the British-based Express Foods Group is seeking additional companies. In North America, GrandMet is seeking new acquisitions in the US petfood market to increase the market share of its Alto Foods Group, which has annual sales of \$350 million.

"We bring a determination to look beyond the immediate horizons," Mr Martin said. But first there is the transition. Mr Martin has held a



Martin: critical 90 days

four-hour strategy session with Mr Philip Smith, the outgoing Pillsbury chairman.

Now he must "pull away the curtain" and see what there is in terms of management skills, financial pitfalls, the makings of a team which will produce a financial percentage of the profits GrandMet is counting on to meet its minimum goal of "15 per cent gross per share per annum."

"I have control of an extensive chunk of that and therefore I have got to produce it," he said.

A meeting tomorrow with Mr Jerry Levin, the embattled chairman of the Burger King hamburger division, will be critical to the strategy.

Mr Martin is meeting Mr Levin with an open mind, despite the fierce battle which both waged to win the backing of Burger King franchisees during the critical days of the takeover. "I have heard that he is a first-class operator," he said.

But whether Mr Levin stays on will depend on his compatibility with Mr Martin and his goals.

These have already taken shape. Mr Martin, who was trained as a chartered accountant in addition to taking an arts degree from St Andrew's University, has looked at the Burger King books and drawn several conclusions. To begin, things are not as bad as Pillsbury and Wall Street analysts have indicated.

Mr Martin said that it almost appeared that Burger King had been misrepresented deliberately. "I sometimes wonder if it was not a covert poison pill," designed to ward off all would-be buyers, he said.

His strategy for Burger King, however, is not a grand scheme designed to turn it

into the number one US hamburger chain.

"I have been trying to avoid the image that suddenly there is a magic formula, a rabbit out of the hat, that says here is the new Burger King. I think that is the wrong way to go," Mr Martin said.

He intends to lop off the poorly-performing Burger King franchise in unimpressive markets and concentrate on the good ones. "We do not want to be the biggest, we want to be the best."

Contrary to popular US opinion, Mr Martin said that he achieved considerable experience in what actually amounts to a franchising operation when he oversaw GrandMet's tenancy pub operations, as chairman of the brewing and retailing division.

To put the GrandMet stamp on Pillsbury, he is installing a small team at the top, which will include executives from Britain and from the New Jersey headquarters of Grand Metropolitan Inc, the US company. His key lieutenants, Mr Paul Walsh and Mr Howard Chandler, will move with him in Minnesota, forming the nucleus of GrandMet's worldwide food division.

Over the next 60 to 90 days it will be up to these key players, the "centurions," Mr Martin says, to accomplish:

● Quick divestiture of Pillsbury's restaurant units, which is required under an antiquated US state law regulating drinks companies.

● The reorganization at the top which will include lay-offs at the Minnesota headquarters and elsewhere.

● An immediate review of Pillsbury's finances and prospects in order to make forecasts for this year.

● A growth programme for its Petcare Health Services Division which has experienced profit growth of just under 80 per cent over the past two years.

Mr Martin said that this is a big potential area of growth, given the annual 2 per cent increase in eye care services in the US.

It is clear that Mr Martin's plate is full. He must also build an image in the US and in Minnesota as a good corporate citizen. For example, US companies traditionally give much more to charity than British firms.

USM REVIEW

Farming company ready to break new ground with market quotation

Gone is the old image of the ruddy-faced gentleman farmer dressed in tweeds and wellies. He has been replaced by the hard-bitten businessman with smart suits and a determined look.

If you want a glimpse of him, look out for first-time dealings in Associated Farmers, the East Anglian company which joins the Stock Exchange's Third Market soon by way of an introduction sponsored by Cambridge Capital.

Associated Farmers, founded five years ago, will be the first farming company to join the Third Market. It raised about £2 million under the Business Expansion Scheme in 1983 and has since attracted almost 300 shareholders. It operates more than 1,000 acres — half owned by the company and the rest either held on company tenancy or rented.

The group already has close connections with the Square Mile. Its chairman is Mr John Robertshaw, deputy chairman of Fimbra, one of the City's regulatory bodies, and a director of a number of other quoted companies, including York Trust on the Unlisted Securities Market.

He says the facility of a Third Market quote will enable transactions to take place in the shares now that the statutory five-year BES period has passed.

The group also intends to use the quote to seek acquisitions in related areas such as garden centres, food packing and land management. It is looking for profitable companies with an ambitious management team based



John Robertshaw: looking to expand in and around East Anglia and the East Midlands.

The group will not be raising any extra cash from joining the market, but is already in good financial shape. Mr Robertshaw says it already has sizeable cash resources and total indebtedness of less than £15,000.

The introduction memorandum shows a net asset value of 72.3p a share according to the last accounts up to November 30, 1987. However, had a revaluation of the freehold land, including a "small portion only" of the potential development value of 1.7 acres, been made subsequent to the year-end, it would have thrown up a figure of 82.2p.

A limited amount of property may be sold for residential development. Proceeds will go back into the farming activities, which Mr David Richardson, a director, believes have "significant scope for profitable expansion."

Club date with winners

The Unlisted Securities Market's annual back-slapping season is upon us once again.

Voting forms for the 1988 USM Awards will arrive at some 3,000 City and corporate desks today. With a total of nine categories, short lists for the non-factual categories will be drawn up from the City's recommendations — forms will be sent to USM company chairmen, journalists, analysts and other advisers — and the winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.

The awards will be announced and given out at the USM dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London on March 15.

Now into its third year, the awards and dinner, sponsored jointly by The USM Magazine and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the accountant, have increased in popularity every year. About 800 are expected to attend this time, compared with 550 last year.

"It demonstrates the unique club-like atmosphere that exists on the USM," says Mr Ian Restall, editor of The USM

Magazine. "The companies on it are very diverse but they all have one thing in common — the fact that they are run by entrepreneurs. The main market is too big to do something similar."

Mr Restall points out that last year's winner of the coveted "USM Company of the Year" award, Blenheim Exhibitions Group, put on a sterling performance in 1988 with a share price rise of about 50 per cent, against a difficult market background.

"This obviously indicates what a far-sighted lot USM watchers are," he says.

The nine award categories will be USM Company of the Year; USM Entrepreneur of the Year; USM Best Designed Prospectus; USM Overseas Company of the Year; the USM's favourite PR company; the USM's favourite Merchant Bank; Best Performing New Issue of 1988; Best Performing USM Share of 1988 and Top Sponsor of the Year.

Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Market
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Market
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26

THIRD MARKET

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Market
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26
1,000,000 Greenhouse Cables	26	-2	26	26	26	26	10	26

GOLD

BULLION:
Open: \$408.00-408.50 Close: \$405.50-406.00
High: \$408.75-409.25 Low: \$404.50-405.00

COINS:
Per coin (Ex VAT)
Gold: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Silver: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Platinum: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Palladium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Rhodium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Iridium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Osmium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Ruthenium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Technetium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Yttrium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Zirconium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Niobium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Molybdenum: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Technetium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Ruthenium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Rhodium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Palladium: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)
Silver: \$417.00-422.00 (\$224.00-229.00)

Strong first half could lift Ellis & Everard to £4.9m

TODAY

Ellis & Everard, the chemical distributor, has had a strong first six months and will produce interim pre-tax profits about 19 per cent higher at £4.9 million, according to Miss Jinty Price and Mr Oliver Fear, analysts at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

They forecast growth in sales of about 18 per cent, with acquisitions accounting for roughly 4 per cent, organic volume growth a further 6 per cent and the balance the result of price increases.

In Britain, CFC performed well, while Prillman made further progress in the US and AICC was also strong. Meanwhile, the acquisition of United Chemicals and Pioneer Chemical will ensure that sales and operating profits grow strongly in the second half.

Mr Greg Hutchings' Tomkins conglomerate, formerly FH Tomkins, reports half-year figures to end-October. The group has been quiet since the acquisition of Murray Ohio Manufacturing, the agricultural machinery producer, last summer.

Analysts will be looking for a first two months' contribution from Murray, and an indication of how well it has recovered from the depressed conditions in the US agricultural market last winter, hoping for an uptake of orders this winter as farmers gear up for the next growing season.

Mr Michael Murphy at Warburg Securities is looking for £19.5 million before tax to the first half, up from £16.8 million. The growth in earnings per share, however, should be less dramatic, given the rights issue that accompanied the Murray purchase, with 7.6p against 6.91p likely, he believes.

Interims: Carlo Engineering,



Stanley Kahns: grim interim results feared



Anita Roddick: analysts predict £9 million

Ellis & Everard, ML Holdings,

Tomkins.

Finals: None announced.

TOMORROW

Howden Group, the Glasgow engineering company, ran into severe turbulence two years ago with its disastrous involvement in a Californian wind-generating scheme. All this is now happily behind it, with 1988 marked by a string of acquisitions and orders.

Mr Alex Milne at Barclays de Zoete Wedd is expecting pre-tax profits of £5.8 million for the half-year to end-October, against £3.6 million.

Interims: Cantors, Colefax and Fowler Group, Fleming Overseas Investment Trust, Hildare, Howden Group, Real Time Control, Stead & Simpson, TVS Entertainment, Westpool Investment Trust, Wyko Group.

Finals: Abbey Panels Investments, Alexanders Holdings, Countryside Properties, Kunitnick, Wheway.

WEDNESDAY

If the market's tepid reaction to the group's sparkling interim results in June is anything to go by, something special will obviously be required when Body Shop International, where Mrs Anita Roddick is the managing

health preparations group at the half-way stage.

Mr Gordon Roddick, the chairman, forecast that the momentum would be maintained throughout the rest of the year, so analysts have pencilled in pre-tax profits of about £9 million, compared with £6 million last time.

Interims: Associated Newspapers Holdings, Sidney C Banks, Bepak, Hambro Eurobond and Money Market Fund, The Investment Co, Zetters Group.

Finals: Body Shop International, Economic Forestry Group, Robert Horne, M&G Dual Trust, Sock Shop International, Southern Business Group.

THURSDAY

Analysts are expecting a grim set of interim results from Dixons, the high street electrical retailer. Mr Paul Deacon, an analyst at Goldman Sachs, the US broker, expects pre-tax profits of £45 million compared with £49.5 million

director, announces full-year figures. Despite a 50 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits to £4.71 million, on sales £7.7 million ahead at £215 million, 30p was wiped from the share price of this skin and

positioned at the bottom, not at the top of the company.

As a former partner in McKinsey, the international consultancy, M Descarpentries is a great believer in management science, and innovative systems. Since his appointment in 1981, M Descarpentries turned a loss of £6.3 million in 1981 into a profit of £365 million (£33 million) last year.

Whether his management style can work in Britain, however, remains open to question.

MB Group, on the other hand, maintains that its company has been run on these principles so there is no clash of cultures. M Descarpentries said: "Three years ago I would have been much more sceptical about this merger." But since the turnaround in MB Group he sees no obstacles.

Mr Tim Rothwell of BZW, says of the merger that the "new group will have a complex, idiosyncratic structure, several operating units and departments like a 'syndicalist' socialist organization".

CMB Packaging is an exercise in Anglo-French compatibility

By Wolfgang Muehsen

One of the many British fears about 1992 is that if you merge a British company and a French one, the outcome of the exercise is a French company. And if cuts are needed, somehow the British end would always be rationalized first.

The proposed merger between the packaging subsidiaries of Metal Box, nowadays called MB Group, and the French packaging firm Carnaud, may be interpreted as an example of such French predominance, although this is stoutly denied by both parties.

The merger into CMB Packaging — announced in October and likely to become effective in April — nevertheless highlights the question of how European companies should team up to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

There is a compelling industrial and financial logic to the deal. The companies produce a similar range of products, which include plastics, metal cans and bottles, but have little geographical overlap. Carnaud is currently one of

the leading players on the continent, while Britain is "a great big hole" in the words of M Jean-Marie Descarpentries, the Carnaud chairman, and CMB's chairman-designate. Likewise MB Group is mainly focused in the UK.

The deal, which will allow both companies to produce and market pan-European brands, has been welcomed by some of its European customers. The MB part of the operation may benefit from rationalization, as Carnaud's margins of 10.8 per cent are higher than those of MB (8.3 per cent).

For MB Group shareholders, who will have a 16.5 per cent stake in CMB and retain control of the remainder of MB, the deal involves loss of control, but the possibility of an overall increase in earnings from 1989-90.

This makes the heroic assumption that the two management teams work effectively together since French and British will have equal CMB board representation.

British memories are still soured by the ill-fated Dun-

lop-Pirelli union, originally hailed as an opportunity to create one of the world's largest tyre and rubber groups. Anglo-Italian incompatibility defeated its industrial logic.

A recent parallel is the merger between Sema of France, Europe's second largest software company, and Britain's CAP Group last year to create Sema Group. This has not gone smoothly. Mr Mike Smith, the joint chairman, recently resigned.

CGIP, which owns 40 per cent of Carnaud, also holds a large stake in Cap Gemini Sogeti, Europe's largest software company, which itself holds a 30 per cent stake in Sema Group.

CGIP opposed that merger, but showed no such scepticism about CMB.

M Descarpentries denies that such incompatibilities exist between Carnaud and MB Group. He symbolizes what some call a post-modernist management style, emphasizing corporate visions, and turning corporate management pyramids upside down, to the effect that he himself is

positioned at the bottom, not at the top of the company.

As a former partner in McKinsey, the international consultancy, M Descarpentries is a great believer in management science, and innovative systems. Since his appointment in 1981, M Descarpentries turned a loss of £6.3 million in 1981 into a profit of £365 million (£33 million) last year.

Whether his management style can work in Britain, however, remains open to question.

MB Group, on the other hand, maintains that its company has been run on these principles so there is no clash of cultures. M Descarpentries said: "Three years ago I would have been much more sceptical about this merger." But since the turnaround in MB Group he sees no obstacles.

Mr Tim Rothwell of BZW, says of the merger that the "new group will have a complex, idiosyncratic structure, several operating units and departments like a 'syndicalist' socialist organization".

Gold stars on their metal

If you want to know which way the gold price is headed, then look no further than the executives' luncheon room within the St James's offices of Consolidated Gold Fields. For the 40 or so directors and senior employees of the mining and finance giant who regularly eat there participate in an annual sweepstake to predict both the gold price by the year-end and the price of ConsGold shares. The prize for the latter at the end of 1988 was won, as is only right, by Humphrey Wood, the group's managing director. He had prophesied that the shares would end the year at £12.91, and was just 4p ahead of the market. Showing similarly intuitive guesswork, Stewart Murray, one of the company's metal experts — and a specialist in titanium — plumped for a gold price of \$411. At the afternoon fix in London on December 30, the gold price proved him almost right — it was set at \$412.50. With all eyes now firmly fixed on Murray to discover what he predicts for 1989, a spokesman for the company tells me that the deadline for entries is... wait for it... Friday, January 13. Although the ConsGold man refuses to disclose the range of guess-timates until after that date, it is intriguing to discover, of those predictions received for the gold price so far, most have the metal "well in excess of \$500" by the end of 1989. Watch, as they say, this space...

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Many happy returns

One of the copyrights already owned by Thorn EMI — before its £187 million deal last week to buy 250,000 copyrights from SBE Entertainment World — is that ditty we all know and love, *Happy Birthday to You*. Colin Southgate, group chief executive, laments that the song is all too often sung without the proper

cheques being handed over. "But when I see an Italian waiter jump on a restaurant table and burst into song, even I do not have the nerve to rush over and say, 'That will be £20, please,'" he says. Comforting to know, though, that each time the dear old BBC plays it, a cheque is duly popped in the post.

Lack of resolve

If you are wondering how much longer you can stick to your new year's resolutions, do not set yourself too ambitious a target. The Americans have just completed a survey which shows that 19 per cent of men abide by their resolutions for less than a

week, as do 16 per cent of women. Within six months they have been forgotten by 47 per cent of men and 56 per cent of women. The number who manage to stick to them into the autumn dwindles to 34 per cent of men and 28 per cent of women, the survey says.



"Pharmaceuticals are down again, I see"

Burning ambition

The first known advertising agency to be run solely by a woman is, I hear, about to be launched by Stephanie Whitaker, aged 32. Whitaker, formerly a director of Yellowhammer Advertising, launches Ignis — Latin for fire — next Monday, with offices in Kensington. John Cope, the Employment Minister, who has just launched an initiative for women in business, will make the opening speech. "I met him when I handled the Department of Employment's advertising at Yellowhammer," she says. Clearly attracted to entrepreneurial types, not only has she formed a corporate partnership with Mia Dickinson, who operates her own marketing services agency, MDA, but her husband is Michael Whitaker, a partner and rated electrical analyst with Simon & Coates and then Chase, who left last year to start his own consultancy business. Ignis has won its first competitive pitch and will, Whitaker predicts, employ 20 people by the year end.

Clearly amused by my revelations of the confusion being caused in Hong Kong by the two men, both called David Davies, on the board of First Pacific Land, the one of Hill Samuel and TSB fame tells me he is known as David J and not David S as I reported. If is, he explains, the other David, the 18-year veteran of Hong Kong, who is known as David S and not David J. Hands up anyone who is not confused now...

Carol Leonard

ECONOMIC VIEW Lawson cannot shrug off tax cuts' impact

Does fiscal policy still have a role to play in economic management? This may seem like an odd question to ask when the Chancellor and his team have just spent the weekend at Dorneywood carefully considering Budget strategy, or at least playing Trivial Pursuit in front of the fire, but it is a valid one in present circumstances.

We are in the middle of a period which is every bit as interesting, in its way, as any of the laboratory experiments for the economy of recent years. It is not, as the Chancellor sometimes suggests, a re-run of 1985. This is new territory, in virtually every respect.

The question about the role of fiscal policy arises, of course, because of the rapid turnaround in the Government's financial position over the past two years, a development of which every market-maker in government stocks is being made painfully aware. The public sector debt repayment was £3.6 billion in 1987-88, is heading for £13 billion in the present financial year and, on unchanged policies, could reach £20 billion in 1989-90.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development clearly sees a continued role for fiscal policy in economic management, in spite of these budget surpluses. In particular, the OECD argues that the lower the level of private savings, the greater may be the need for larger budget surpluses.

The Chancellor, while conceding that monetary policy may have been relaxed a little too much a year ago, has been dogged in his defence of the March 1988 Budget. Tax cuts of £4 billion were small in relation to an expansion of credit of £40 billion, he argued last week. And the Government has done its bit to restrain the economy by running an even larger budget surplus than was intended.

Above all, tax cuts are no longer used in the context of stimulating or damping down the economy. That, and presumably the OECD, belongs to the outdated Keynesian mentality of the 1960s and 1970s.

Much of this can be taken with a fairly large pinch of salt. The Chancellor has to defend the Budget because, unlike the internationally co-ordinated easing of monetary policy a year ago, the tax cuts were his decision alone.

Comparing the size of tax cuts with the amount of credit expansion is hardly comparing like with like. And, while the Chancellor may not think of tax cuts in terms of their stimulating effect on the economy, it is clear, both for their impact on consumer confidence and their direct income effects, that they do indeed have such an effect.

Even so, the important thing is not whether the view is correct, but whether it is believed by enough people in high places. The logic of the Chancellor's argument is that the tax-cutting process

could continue in March, although presumably at a more modest pace and alongside a larger budget surplus than a year ago.

The interesting bit of the experiment is in the use of interest rates to cool an overheated economy which has a structural balance of payments problem. A timely Bank of England discussion paper, *The interest elasticity of consumers' expenditure*, by Michael Dicks of the Bank's economics division, concludes that interest rates now have much more powerful effects on consumer spending than in the period before the 1980s.

Deregulation in financial markets has resulted in increased competition among the providers of funds. As part of this process, credit-rationing has disappeared, and individuals have been able to build up their borrowing to the level they desire, and perhaps above that which previous generations would have considered prudent.

The paper finds that as a result of these developments, the leverage of interest rates on consumer spending has increased, both in its significance and in the number of households directly affected by interest rate changes. Monetary policy is more powerful in its impact.

This is, of course, quite encouraging. It fits in with the evidence from the housing market, and the screams of over-stretched home buyers.

The Bank is not suggesting that it has yet discovered the Holy Grail of powerful interest rate effects on overall bank lending, but this is an important start.

It may even be that the slowdown in mortgage borrowing now coming through will be enough to produce a respectable rise in the saving ratio from its low of 1.3 per cent in the third quarter of last year, even without too many Budget initiatives to boost saving. And if such initiatives are anything like the uninspiring National Savings capital bond launched last week, the Treasury should hold its fire.

The main worry must be that, in an environment of fairly rapidly growing real incomes, and rising pay settlements, a one-off dose of interest rate medicine will not be enough. It may be that, after people have adjusted to the higher rates, the dose has to be administered over and over again.

On previous experience, we should now be at the top of the interest rate cycle. The fact that there is very real uncertainty about whether or not that point has been reached shows that we are at a critical stage in the experiment. The Chancellor would be wise not to test to destruction the argument that tax cuts have no role to play in macro-economic management.

David Smith

Economics Correspondent

Westcot Homes plc — issue of shares under the Business Expansion Scheme (BES). THE ATCHISON & COLEGRAVE GROUP LTD. will shortly be sponsoring an issue of shares in Westcot Homes plc to raise up to £5 million under the BES.

Residential property has long been regarded as a sound investment. Now, the Business Expansion Scheme allows qualifying taxpayers the opportunity to invest in companies owning and renting assured tenancy houses and obtain 25 or 40 per cent tax relief on their investment.

In addition, capital gains on qualifying shares disposed of after 5 years are tax free.

Westcot Homes has been established by a group of experienced property professionals to purchase quality residential property in Central Scotland.

An offer to invest in residential properties with up to 40%* tax relief.

* for higher rate taxpayers

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- Experienced management by Euan Wallace & Partners established surveyors and property consultants.
- Management rewards linked to performance.
- Investor loan facilities are available from a leading Scottish bank.
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From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Calc.	Rate
1	Jestup	Motors/Aircraft		
2	CRH	Building/Roads		
3	Wimpey G (as)	Building/Roads		
4	Rugby Group	Building/Roads		
5	Wessex	Industrials S-Z		
6	Daniel S	Industrials S-Z		
7	Electro Home	Electricals		
8	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z		
9	Hardy & Hanson	Breweries		
10	Lon Ind	Industrials L-R		
11	Permanor	Building/Roads		
12	Stanley Lease	Leisure		
13	Stand Chart (as)	Bank/Discount		
14	Wiley	Industrials S-Z		
15	Eurocity	Industrials E-K		
16	Kesary (as)	Electricals		
17	Kidman Benson	Bank/Discount		
18	Dunlop & Newman	Industrials A-D		
19	Gaveco	Industrials L-R		
20	Pittman (as)	Industrials L-R		
21	Megitt	Industrials L-R		
22	JS Pathology	Industrials E-K		
23	BSR	Electricals		
24	Diploma	Industrials A-D		
25	UD Scientific	Electricals		
26	Tiphook	Shipping		
27	AAF Ind	Industrials A-D		
28	Adanson	Industrials A-D		
29	Dawson	Textiles		
30	Wipac	Paper/Print/Adv		
31	RY Bk Sec (as)	Bank/Discount		
32	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K		
33	Westbury	Building/Roads		
34	Kanal Elect (as)	Electricals		
35	WCRS	Paper/Print/Adv		
36	Dowty	Motors/Aircraft		
37	UD Newspapers (as)	Newspapers/Pub		
38	Yorkshire TV	Leisure		
39	Basell Foods	Food		
40	Land & New (as)	Industrials L-R		
41	Phar	Chemicals/Plas		
42	Boford	Electricals		
43	Vickers	Industrials S-Z		

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock exchange

Back

Net Change

Per cent

Over 5 years

Over 10 years

Over 15 years

Over 20 years

Over 25 years

Over 30 years

Over 35 years

Over 40 years

Over 45 years

Over 50 years

Over 55 years

Over 60 years

Over 65 years

Over 70 years

Over 75 years

Over 80 years

Over 85 years

Over 90 years

Over 95 years

Over 100 years

Over 105 years

Over 110 years

Over 115 years

Over 120 years

Over 125 years

Over 130 years

Over 135 years

Over 140 years

Over 145 years

Over 150 years

Over 155 years

Over 160 years

Over 165 years

Over 170 years

Over 175 years

Over 180 years

Over 185 years

Over 190 years

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 28. Dealings end January 13. Settlement day January 23.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
247th Res Grp	155	+1	10.5	6.8	17.5
438th Res Grp	155	+1	10.5	6.8	17.5
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EDUCATION

هكذا من الأصل

Edited by David Tytler

GCSEs that begin at 11

Douglas Broom reports on a new exam system involving gradual assessment

Just as pupils and parents are getting used to the GCSE, a fresh examination revolution is about to overtake our schools that could finish off the make-or-break final exam. Within a few years children could begin working for GCSEs from the moment they enter secondary school at the age of 11, going up a ladder of "levels of achievement" to a final qualification.

Graded Assessment, as the system is known, has been almost a decade in the making. The Government-appointed School Examinations and Assessment Council gave qualified approval last month for its introduction into schools.

The London and East Anglian GCSE group, which has been running pilot schemes involving 40,000 pupils in 25 areas of the country for five years, got the approval for its science graded assessment syllabus. The decision heralds what many believe will be a revolution as profound in its effects as the GCSE itself.

Gaining a qualification without sitting a formal exam is not new. The GCSE and the old CSE have enabled tens of thousands of 16-year-olds to qualify on the basis of course work alone. Graded Assessment is new in that the course starts as soon as the child enters the secondary school rather than at the age of 14. The pace of progress is set by the pupil's own



An ordeal for many secondary school children: the GCSE written exam that could be on the way out

'The methods of assessment are more flexible'

abilities. So a child prodigy can qualify for a grade A at GCSE at the age of 14, or a pupil who has difficulties can progress steadily to a good grade at 16.

Unlike previous course work syllabuses, Graded Assessment does not involve pupils jumping through the hoops of course work assignments that may form no part of their everyday classroom experience.

Instead, teachers are free to devise their own methods of assessing their pupils' capabilities against performance criteria laid down by the exam group. The emphasis is on flexibility, and

teachers are encouraged to make assessment part of the everyday life of the classroom, unobtrusively measuring what pupils can really do.

At present every subject has differing numbers of levels through which pupils progress. In maths it is 15, in languages eight. To pass every level pupils will have to fulfil a range of criteria spelling out things they should be able to do or know by that stage.

For example, in maths at level four - roughly a third of the way up the 15 level maths ladder - pupils have to show their ability to give the correct change for an item

costing less than £10 from a £10 note.

Matthew Portal, head of the Graded Assessment section at the London and East Anglian group, said: "The criteria are fixed but the actual methods of assessment are far more flexible. The intention is to motivate pupils and teachers and to make learning more enjoyable while making assessment more effective."

The other trump card in the hand of supporters of Graded Assessment is that its underlying principles agree closely with some of the main themes in the Black Report on assessment and testing

under the new national curriculum. Like the Black Report's preferred system of levels of achievement, Graded Assessment is not tied to pupils passing milestones at certain ages.

It also follows Black's thinking that assessment tasks should arise out of the work being done by pupils and not be bolted-on extras that may jar with the tone of the rest of the classroom work.

Mr Portal said: "Teachers carry out the assessments in the classroom, but their assessments are monitored by an LEAG-appointed assessor who visits up to 10 schools on average three times a year. The assessor not only checks the records of pupils against their written work to ensure the criteria have been satisfied but visits classrooms to check on assessment of oral or practical work. These visits ensure that thorough monitoring takes place and that uniformity of standards, procedures and record-keeping are maintained."

Work is already very advanced on introducing Graded Assessment in maths, modern languages (French, Urdu, German and Spanish) and craft, design and technology (CDT). A similar scheme for English is also being prepared and with an average of five years required to work up every subject there seems no reason why such a scheme should not be introduced across the curriculum by the end of the century.

LETTERS

Beating about an electoral bush

Students who are using *The Times* Presspass scheme to obtain *The Times* at half price have been invited to write giving their views on the paper. Here is a selection:

From Bernadette Chelvanayagam

The Times coverage of the US election was, in my opinion, a very detailed and interesting reporting. I frankly believe Mr Bush did nothing positive in his campaign to enhance his beliefs/policies, which were rather contradictory to what he said about Mr Dukakis.

Mr Bush should have been paying particular attention to important issues, instead of promising such things as... "No more taxes... Read my lips..." It is obvious that once he is President, if he intends to reduce the trade deficit that is currently strangling America, he will have to raise taxes.

Bernadette Chelvanayagam, Brook Road, Redhill, Surrey

Wrong remedy

From Dermot K. Feenan
Again it seems patients have been prescribed the wrong legal remedy. The High Court decided (*Law Report*, December 1) that a psychiatrist's duty of confidentiality to a patient detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 was lower than that owed to an "ordinary" member of the public.

If this distinction is one based on a case-by-case assessment of the "ordinariness" of the patient, in addition to the incompatibility with the principle of confidentiality, the confusion which seems certain to result from such a term in law, psychiatry and other medical practices cannot be to the benefit of the patient.

Dermot K. Feenan, Sunnyside Park, Belfast

No suffering

From Edward Usherwood
I should like to clarify some of the misunderstandings that seem to surround genetic engineering. I feel that the image most people have of this science is that of a bespectacled boffin in a laboratory performing strange experiments, making weird and wonderful creatures like something out of a science fiction B-movie.

There is nothing mystical about genetic engineering, it is simply a way of producing a useful effect by a novel method.

Human embryo research is an emotive issue - but it should not be clouded by any preconceived ideas about what scientists are working towards. They just want what the rest of society wants - freedom from disease, and other forms of human suffering.

Edward Usherwood, Downing College, Cambridge

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lectureship at Wadham College.

Further particulars may be obtained from Professor S. J. Liebowitz, Institute of Economics and Statistics, St. Cross College, 12 St. Cross Road, Oxford OX1 3SL, to whom applications (eight copies, or one from those overseas) should be sent by 14 February 1989.

Department of Plant Sciences

UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN

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Applications are invited for the above post which is to be filled

from 1 October 1989 from candidates with particular interest in

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scale £20,000 - £28,000 p.a. The successful candidate will be a

member of the Department of Plant Sciences and required to

teach statistical methods for the Honors School of Botany, Zoology, Plant and Applied Biology, and the MSc in Forestry. The

lecturer will also be required to give advice generally on

quantitative methods. The successful candidate may be offered a

lectureship at St. John's College and a lectureship at Lady Margaret Hall.

Applications (eight copies, one from overseas candidates), should be sent by 14 February 1989 to Professor F.R. Whitham, Department of Plant Sciences, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3SL from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Social Studies Faculty Centre

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In association with Nuffield College

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according to age, on the scale £20,000 to £28,000 p.a. The post

may be held jointly with a lectureship at Nuffield College.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mrs. R. Oxford, Social

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For further details apply to:

Mr A. B. Mason, Clerk to the Governors, Prior

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(Telephone 0225-835353).

The closing date for applications will be Friday,

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ASSISTANT TO MD
£12,000 + generous annual bonus
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We are market leaders in luxury bathrooms with a showroom in Mayfair. We need an energetic PA to assist the MD with the expansion of our new Hotel and development division. Good secretarial skills are essential and WP experience with familiarity of Wordperfect would be an advantage. Based in our Paddington Green office with a small but friendly team of sales the successful applicant will need to be self-motivated. We operate on an international scale and therefore knowledge of French and/or German would be useful.

For further particulars call Paulina Richards on 01 262 2612 or write to JCD Creations Ltd, 16 Paddington Green, London W2 1LG.

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